NIAGARA NEWS

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Open house exhibits student-grown plants at Glendale campus

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

With spring officially here, Niagara College's horticultural showcase is again in full bloom.

The School of Horticulture and Agribusiness presents its 33rd Annual Horticultural Open House and Plant Sale this weekend at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Expected to attend are 5,000 to 6,000 guests, a number which is typical, noted Jim Thomson, manager of campus development at the greenhouse.

Visitors can tour the entire 20,000-square-foot greenhouse complex with its potting and soil laboratory, and see the latest computerized systems and the nursery, with hundreds of plants, grown by horticulture students, for sale.

Plant varieties include geraniums, mums, pansies, kalanchoes and primula as well as hanging baskets and dried floral arrangements. There will also be various students' landscape displays and floral design projects, such as of plants that clean the air and those that lure butterflies to your garden, and seed sewing and plant grafting made easy, noted Thomson.

Besides a children's activity area, there will be information available about the horticulture programs.

"We hope to have many horticultural societies having displays as well," he added. Some of the regional societies slated to have exhibits in the main building's first and lower levels are the Niagara Falls Horticultural Society, the Orchid Society, the Cactus Society, the Bonsai Society and the Hort Alumni Association. In the Yerich Stadium on Saturday at 1:30 p.m., herb grower Tim Freeman, from Freeman Herbs in Beamsville, will discuss Taking the Mystery Out of Herbs. Throughout the day, members of the Niagara Culinary Institute, at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls, will demonstrate using herbs in cooking.

Summing up the event, Thomson said, "It's to highlight our students and our programs. We also generate funds that are used to offset the cost of programs, but the main focus is to highlight students and (all the) horticulture programs.

"We expect it to be a success, as in the past. It's also a chance to show off our facilities to our public, facilities of which we're very proud."

About the students' in-class work that began weeks in advance, with the projects and the potting, arranging and tagging, Thomson added his praise. "The students are very excited and are working hard."

Besides the public, Thomson remarked the college is "hoping to attract" potential employers relevant to the students' studies.

Last week, first-year students in the two-year Horticulture Technician (Co-op) program were potting and tagging the plants for the open house as part of their practical horticulture course's curriculum, but still took the time to share their enthusiasm about the program.

Errol Lucyk, 40, of Timmins, laughingly said, "I like it a lot, but it's a lot of hard work. Despite the difficulties, I'm enjoying it very much." It was a sentiment echoed by several other students.

Charlotte Teggin-Watton, 30, of St. Catharines, gave the program her green thumbs up. "I love it — I really do . . . I love its diversity. We learn everything from insects to plants and anatomy."

Agreeing, Kelly Torrance, 30, of St. Catharines, said, "(I) love the program. (I'm) really excited to find out what's coming next," adding she's anticipating "a lot to do" in class in the spring.

The weekend activities will run daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with the cafeteria in the main building's basement open between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Parking is free in front of the greenhouse. *(See other related photo on Page 24.)*

First-year Horticulture Technician (Co-op) program student Charlotte Teggin-Watton, 30, of St. Catharines, tags the Angel Wing begonias in preparation for this weekend's plant sale at the greenhouse, as part of her practical horticulture course. The annual open house and plant sale will take place this weekend at the Glendale campus.

Photo by Paul Finelli

President addresses revenue shortfall

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

Niagara College needs money.

The college will post a small surplus of $293,000 as of March 31. The next two years will see the surplus turn into a deficit with the college ending up $3 million in the red by the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

"We used to get $5,000 a student 10 years ago from the Ontario Government; today we get $3,000. Government funding has stayed relatively stagnant, while expenditures have increased," complains Patterson.

Patterson says, "There are no plans to cut back on programs. Instead, we are looking at efficiencies." He says the college will not replace positions vacated by staff and will improve class scheduling to get better use of faculty time.

"We will be increasing contract training with regional companies to offset lack of government funds. Each division within the college has been challenged to come up with efficiencies regarding use of supplies, hiring of part-time staff and management within their limited budgets," reveals Patterson.

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Academy Awards of Food and Wine to be held Sunday

Niagara College's popular Showcase of Chefs series will be capped off Sunday with the Academy Awards of Food and Wine at the Niagara Culinary Institute.

This event features the showcase chefs from the 2000-2001 season and celebrates the very best of Niagara's cuisine and wine. Special guest of honour at the gala reception at 6 p.m. will be MPP Erie Lincoln Tim Hudak, minister of tourism, culture and recreation.

This year's chefs include Wolfgang Sterr, of the Wildflower Restaurant, Mark Picone, of Vineland Estates, Roberto Fracchioni, of On The Twenty, Tim O'Donnell, of the Hilton in Niagara Falls, Catherine O'Donnell, of the Hillebrand Vineyard Café, Paul Pennock and Barry Burton, of the Niagara Parks Commission.

Participating wineries include Chateau des Charmes, Vineland Estates, Cave Spring Cellars, Hillebrand and Malivoire.

At press time, the few tickets left were to be sold on a first-come first-serve basis. Tickets cost $130; for more information telephone 735-2111 extension 3602.

The Niagara Culinary Institute is at 5881 Dunn St., Niagara Falls.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Photonics on its way to Niagara College

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

Lights! Lasers! Complicated machinery! Photonics is on its way to Niagara College.

Photonics is the design and use of light energy technology including fibre-optics, image sensing, lasers and sensors. A Photonics program will start at Niagara College's Welland campus in the fall semester of this year.

"It's everywhere you can imagine," says Leo Tiberi, director of the communication and information technology division at Niagara College. "In the medical field, all types of scanning equipment that's based on light is photonics. In the supermarket, bar-coding. In the computer networks, those fiber-optic lines that carry light signals and allow information to travel between computers or between buildings, that's photonics."

The photonics industry in the Niagara region includes "end users, companies that buy photonics devices and then there's the companies that build them. The big manufacturers, they're building all these components for people that are going to use them, so any industry down here that's working with computer networks . . . the medical field, the service area, manufacturing will be using them, and they'll need people to fix and operate these devices.

"The industry is popping up everywhere," says Tiberi. "Kitchener, Burlington . . . and there will be companies popping up here, because we have the program. I can see that happening. So, in this case, we're strategically located." He describes Welland as "a good destination for these companies."

Tiberi says the creation of the Photonics program is important because "there's such a shortage of people."

The Photonics program was created as the result of a partnership between Niagara College and Photonics Research Ontario (PRO). PRO is one of four centres set up by the Ontario government as non-profit organizations to promote commercial research partnerships between schools and the industry. PRO also has a partnership with Algonquin College in Nepean, which will be starting its own photonics program soon.

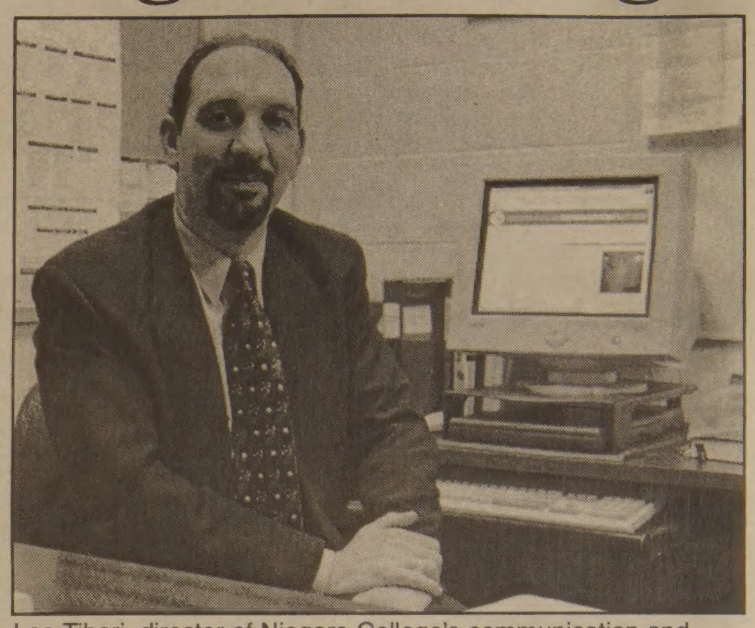
"Niagara College was picked, I believe, because of our current involvement in high technology," Tiberi says. "We have a microelectronics program that goes hand-in-hand with photonics. We have integrated manufacturing at our Glendale campus that has a photonics slant to it. We already had an established base of programming, so this was a natural evolution for us."

Who decides what the Photonics program will entail?

"In terms of the curriculum, that's all industry-driven. So there's a very active advisory group made up of key industry people in the business who are telling us through PRO and through our involvement what to teach. They want, at the end of this, people that will work for their companies who know the skills that it needs."

Tiberi says he hopes photonics will be part of the "existing core of very strong programs" at Niagara College. "We want photonics to join that core and, ultimately, attract students from across the province and the country who would come down here for the specialized training, find out what else we have and stick around for our electronics, micro-electronics or some of the other disciplines that we already have a solid reputation in.

"From the photonics standpoint, what it does is it further solidifies our position as a tech school, as a high-tech school, and raises the awareness in the province of Niagara College as a player in the industry."



Leo Tiberi, director of Niagara College's communication and information technology division, sits in his office at the Welland campus.

Photo by Kevin Hartford

Forum keeps president 'in touch' with students; KPI, facilities, YMCA location highlighted

Continued from page 1

Another issue the president discussed was the advisory forum held March 12.

"I spent too much time speaking," admits Patterson, "I should have left time for more questions."

Patterson says the forum was an "important reminder to constantly stay in touch with students and the issues in their lives."

He says students "stressed" the need to refurbish the Welland campus and were "concerned" about the costs involved in bringing the YMCA to the college.

"We got good feedback on KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). I hope I was able to convey how the college was trying to deal with that issue. I understand students were getting mixed messages about the surveys."

"Eventually," reveals Patterson, "I'd like to go to every campus and have this dialogue. We're still searching for the best method of getting information via these forums."

Patterson stresses, "It is very important for the president to utilize forums like this to address issues that are of concern to staff and students. While we have other mechanisms in place such as SAC (Student Administrative Council), it's still important for the college president to be seen as available for discussions and dialogue."

One-year-old Lexy plays in the snow with her mother outside the Welland campus on Tuesday.

Photo by Calum McNeil

Silent auction, ball tourney caps fund-raising efforts

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

A three-on-three basketball tournament will be held on March 30, 31, and April 1, with all proceeds benefiting the Adopt-A-Minefield committee. It will cost $100 for each team to play the full weekend in the Mackenzie building's gym at the Welland campus.

During intermissions, there will be a silent auction of items like a Vince Carter game-worn jersey, tickets to concerts by 97.7 HTZ-FM, a St. Catharines radio station, and two paintings by Bill Munroe, a faculty member of Niagara College, and his wife. The two paintings will have a minimum bid of $50 and $75.

Sean Taylor, a first-year Journalism-Print program student, has taken over the chairmanship of the committee. Betty Ann Chandler, the former faculty co-chair of the committee, stepped down since the faculty/staff campaign was over and it's now a student-driven campaign.

The committee has raised $769.95, plus another $200 from the Bachelor Auction that happened on March 21 at After Hours pub at the Welland campus. These figues will be matched by the Canadian International Development Agency through a ratio of $3 for every $1 raised by the Adopt-A-Minefield committee.

This campaign will be continued this fall.

visit www.niagara-news.com

To Serve & To Protect

New deputy for Niagara Regional Police

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

There's a new deputy in town.

"The transition has been challenging," says Donna Moody, deputy chief of police for the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS).

"I've never really sat in that deputy chief role, or done that paperwork, so there was a slight bit of a learning curve for the first month or so. I arrived at this desk because I had to learn the paper flow and different things like that and I'd never done it in the past. However, after a couple of weeks that sort of settles in and with that taken care of, there's not much else that would probably be too challenging as far as the operations or the office, because you're familiar with that anyway."

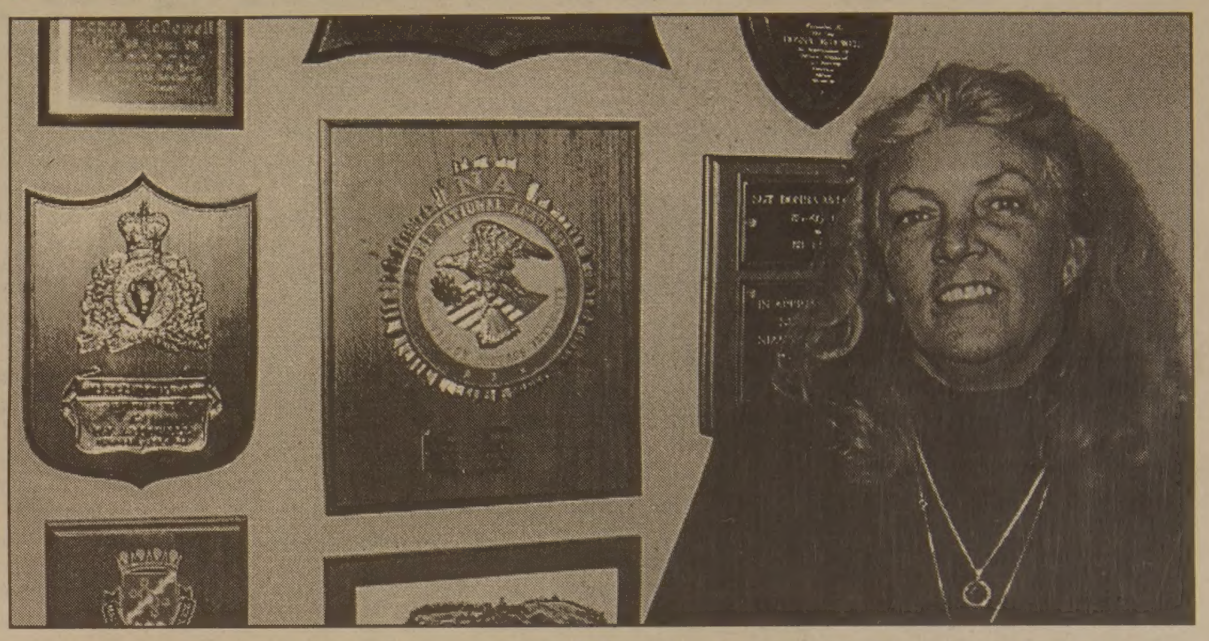
A 27-year veteran of the NRPS, Moody was selected for the position of deputy chief in February, from about 25 applicants across Canada. Prior to that, she was acting superintendent of the service, a position she held since September 2000. In 1974, she was hired by the NRPS as their first female cadet.

"I was in the Law and Security Administration program at Niagara College. A recruiter came in and said they were opening up the door for female police officers in the cadet program.

"It was a very good sort of base to learn about some of the laws — the Criminal Code, the Highway Traffic Act, provincial offences and that type of thing. They give you a good base to start with," she says. "It's very practical, it's job-specific, and if they complete that program, and they want to continue their education, it's always a good base to continue on to, say, university maybe and get a general bachelor of arts (degree) in something."

She explained that students enrolled in law enforcement programs should pursue part-time employment in related fields. "While they're attending those types of courses which are in that area (of study), they should be seeking part-time jobs that are related to that work — security, any kind of job that puts them in contact with people, community service work. It demonstrates a lot."

She says the role of a deputy chief is to carry on the chief's responsibilities in his absence. "When he is away, (it's) sort of like the vice-president president thing. I assume his (NRPS Chief Gary Nicholls') duties in his absence. A deputy chief's responsibility is for the complete operations side of the police service. All police operations are all coming under the deputy chief's direction. Basically everything else involving police operations is under my command."



Donna Moody, deputy chief of the Niagara Regional Police Service, stands in front of awards she has received in her law enforcement career.

Photo by Aaron Yzerman

Moody says her interest in the law began in high school and that her choice of law enforcement as a career is a result of her desire to do something different.

"I remember I took a law course (and) I enjoyed the law course. Once I finished high school, I though it would be interesting and I had a good mark in it. I'd be interested to go through the LASA program (and) down the road maybe I'd look into being a police officer. It was unconventional, non-traditional. It was something sort of different. My mother describes me as always wanting to do something different when I was young and growing up. I was the one that was always doing the unusual type of activities, you know? I had to have everything that was a little different in my life."

She explained that "unique trends" in crime in the Niagara region tend toward the organized kind and that the strong tourism factor plays a large part.

"One of the things we have to be very careful of here in the region is the infiltration of organized crime. That comes quite frequently from the demographics of where we are here — we have lakes, we have borders and we have waterways and this type of thing and they all access the United States into us," she says.

"We have the casino, we have a very lucrative tourist industry down here, so we have to be very careful that it's not an area that can become a stronghold for any type of organized crime. I'm not just talking Mafia-kind. When people say 'organized crime,' they tend to think of your regular Mafia/Cosa Nostra kind of organized crime, and that's traditional organized crime. There is some of that, of course, with Buffalo and everybody close by to us. But organized crime, like bikers and outlaw motorcycle gangs, gypsy rings, pickpocket rings — these types of things could prey on tourists. Organized crime involvement is here because of the lucrative casino business and the borders, which is very attractive to the crime industry."

"Right across the country, crime rates are going down. Reported crime is sort of on the decrease right now, and it has been for the last five or six years right across the whole country, and it has here in Niagara. It has dropped significantly. It's hard to say (why) — aging population, maturity, different people doing different things. It could be something as simple as reporting crime, too," she says.

Moody says that while she would be happy in the deputy chief position for a few more years, her goal is to be a chief with the NRPS.

"I'm at the second-highest position in the police service, as the deputy chief," she says. "Certainly, the next place would be the chief of police. Mind you, that's a little bit far down the road from now. We have our chief here, (and) certainly, I would be very much comfortable spending some time with him over the next three or four years and be comfortable with his position, and when he decides to seek retirement, I will step up to that plate, probably, at that time."

Niagara recognizes police efforts in college security

College President Dan Patterson presents awards to Niagara Regional Police officers

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

Six Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) officers were awarded for their service by Niagara College on March 13.

The awards were presented by Niagara College President Dan Patterson, in recognition of the efforts of the NRPS in ensuring the safety of the college. Among the recipients were Superintendent Henry Harley, Det. Const. Jeff Skelton, Det. Const. Ray Stankus and Const. Shannon Lough.

"The partnership between the college and the police service has to be one of the strongest in the region and a model for others across the country," says Patterson. "The college has enjoyed a special relationship with the NRPS when it comes to ensuring Niagara College is a safe place to work and to study. The service has been a tremendous supporter of our programs particularly (the) Police Foundations (program) and (the) Law and Security Administration (program)."

Patterson acknowledged the role that Rick Demers, manager of health, safety and security at the college, plays as liaison between the college and the NRPS.

"Rick approaches his responsibilities with the seriousness and professionalism they deserve, and we are very proud to have him as (an) integral member of the college team. Rick's excellent working relationship with the NRPS is not something the college wants to take for granted," he says.

"It needs to be mutually supportive," says NRPS Chief Gary Nicholls, on the relationship between the college and the police. "Given the relationship that's developed, it is all of that and a lot more."

"They have all exhibited extraordinary initiative, concern and professionalism," says Patterson. "Their knowledge, expertise, guidance, co-operation and immediate response to our needs has proven extremely valuable and contributed to the safe and secure environment we are able to provide our staff and students."

Niagara College President Dan Patterson presents a plaque to NRPS Superintendent Henry Harley, one of six recipients of an excellency award given to NRPS officers by Niagara College in appreciation of their contribution to college safety.

Photo by Aaron Yzerman

TEEING OFF

First-ever fair boasts golf jobs in region

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

With more than 500 new golf-related jobs to be available in the region in the next three years, Niagara College is going beyond offering its golf management program by launching a golf job fair.

Held this Sunday at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara's Golf Job Fair — the first for the college and the region — will offer jobs, as careers or on a temporary basis, to attendees bringing enthusiasm and resumés.

The event arises from a partnership between Niagara College and Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), the event's main sponsor.

The idea rose from an employment needs survey of the golfing industry, explained Nancy Sutton, of Niagara Conference and Meeting Planning in St. Catharines, hired by the college's Ventures division as a show manager.

Housed at the Glendale campus, Ventures offers opportunities to individuals and workplaces in transition through efforts like co-operative education and employment services for students, and labour studies and training services for business and industry.

Called Golf @Niagara, the survey was jointly conducted by Niagara College and HRDC in 1999. They they assessed 31 golf courses and industry-related suppliers from across the Golden Horseshoe.

The purpose was to gain a better picture of the needs, issues and challenges faced by Niagara's golfing industry as it strives to improve Niagara's status as a world-class golfing destination.

"It became apparent that the golf courses within the Niagara region needed help with (hiring) staff," Sutton said, adding an advisory team was then put together and included several golfing-industry representatives.

"They're all complaining about the lack of individuals . . . There was just a real shortage of all the qualified people."

Margaret Runka, development officer at Ventures and another key organizer of the job fair, agreed, marvelling how golfing has become one of the fastes-growing industries in the region.

She said, "We put the actual proposal (for the fair) in December." The work on getting the project off the ground was done in mid-January.

So far, they have secured such golf courses for the fair as Niagara Falls Golf Club, Sawmill Golf Club in Fenwick and Royal Niagara Golf Club in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Mike Santoro, co-ordinator of the college's Business Administration — Professional Golf Management (C0-op) program, in a prior discussion of the program, noted the fair might be of obvious benefit to his students. *See story below for more on the new program.*

However, Sutton and Runka stressed the fair serves all kinds of people.

"I really want to encourage people who might be interested," added Runka, saying the fair is "geared towards the unemployed, underemployed and seniors."

Agreeing, Sutton said, "It's so diverse," with "behind-the-scenes jobs" like food servers, cooks, pro shop attendants, director of sales, lawn maintenance and welding. "It's more than just a stereotype golf job."

While they aren't sure of the numbers, Sutton and Runka are delighted with the annual horticultural open house and plant sale that happens to take place as well on campus. They concede the fair may attract some of the open house's attendees and vice versa.

"It's going to work out really well," Runka enthused. "Let's just hope it's a nice weekend now."

The golf job fair takes place from noon to 4 p.m. in the basement cafeteria of the main building. Dan Patterson, Niagara College president, will officially open the event with a ceremonial golf swing, using an inflated golf driving range on hand for visitors to try. Admission is free.

For more information on Golf @Niagara's findings, or just on golfing in Niagara, the college-owned Web site is www.golflinksniagara.com.

College lands 'premier golf management program'

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

Fore! Canada's golfing industry is booming, especially in the Niagara region — with some 40 golf courses and nine more expected by 2003.

As golf-related job demands grow throughout the region, Niagara College hopes its new golf program is par for the course.

Launched in the fall of 2000, the Business Administration — Professional Golf Management (Co-op) program, joining the School of Business and Entrepreneurship Studies, is offered at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"When the idea was conceived about two years ago, we commissioned an advisory committee of appropriate golf course managers and head golf professionals," said Mike Santoro, program co-ordinator and professor.

"We presented the idea to them and invited their input as to the viability of the program. Everyone on that committee agreed there was a real need for a program like this one." That initially 30-member "largely sectoral committee," he added, having come especially from among the region's golf courses, stressed the growing need for highly trained graduates.

What sorts of students does Santoro generally see taking this program? "Students basically have one of two aspirations for entering the program," he explained.

In the first case, the student hopes to be a head golf professional. Such paths include associate or assistant golf professional but the requirements are basically the same: completion of Canadian Professional Golf Association (CPGA) requirements. Generally, he added, the student is "trying for the CPGA tour" as a golf player. In the second case, the student prefers instead to be "in the business side of things," like sales and marketing, or perhaps even manager or assistant manager of a golf course.

In other words, students aren't there to actually learn to play golf or to shave strokes off their game. They enjoy the game and want a career in it. "They already have a golf knowledge. What they're learning is (mainly) the business side of golf."

Even so, the three-year program does give students a diverse and up-to-date mix of business management skills and golf-specific courses in every major area of the golf industry in Canada and beyond.

In their first year, the students take courses like fundamentals of golf management, golf operations, policies and practices, and rules of golf. In the second, they take courses like computer applications for the golf industry, golf finance and psychology of sport and leisure. In the third, they take such courses as advanced golf management, booking systems, golf programs, leagues and tournament organization, and golf course design. At the end of the first two years, students go hands-on through 12-week internships in areas like golf shop operations, course management and facility operations.

'They already have a golf knowledge. What they're learning is (mainly) the business side of golf.'

Remarking on this varied curriculum, the co-ordinator said, "There's a good balance between business training in golf and actual golf courses." Given that fact, and though the program will be its second run next fall, "we feel that we are the premier golf management program in Ontario."

Similar programs are already offered at Durham College, in Oshawa, Humber College, in Toronto and Georgian College, in Orillia.

That the college put its golf management program at its three-year old campus is good news for obvious reasons. "We have state-of-the-art facilities on this campus. We have very good, professional teachers (and) trainers."

He gave kudos to the college's completing last fall the new 101-suite 202-occupancy residence, an added sell to prospective students, especially out-of-towners. As proof, of the 37 students in the program, most are from "all over the province" and some from outside Ontario, *including three from Quebec.*

Of those students, he conceded, most happen to be males. There is just one female. Still, there are "currently" five who have applied. He attributed the increase to the fact "more and more women are getting into the sport."

The Glendale campus's juxtaposition in the Niagara region, which is laden with many golf courses, is also a definite lure for golf-related training, Santoro remarked, "Weather is very conducive to the golf industry." The geography, region, climate, and number of golf courses alone "certainly attract the best young golfers, golf students in the province and out of province," he stressed.

As for these students in the program, the co-ordinator sees "a lot of enthusiasm. The program is a very popular program." In fact, the year before the program was offered, more than 160 applied, while 122 have applied for the upcoming year. He expects more during the summer, but the college "will accept only 50 students," the cut-off point.

The program's wide appeal may be no small wonder. Santoro acknowledged the "great partnership with golf courses like Royal Niagara Golf Club (opening in May opposite the campus) and Beechwood Golf and Country Club (in Niagara Falls) where the students can actually play there and train there. Part of the students' tuition goes towards playing privileges at (those) golf courses."

Success may already be assured for students in Niagara College's golf management program. "If co-op (placement) is any indication, job placement is 100 per cent . . . for this year. There's a lot of demand. Golf course owners are looking for trained, skilled students for their courses for the summer. We provide, I think, the best students for those positions."

Students in the new Business Administration — Professional Golf Management (Co-op) program look on as one of their own "tees off" in the survey of the golf industry class. On hand are co-ordinator Mike Santo (far left) and their professor Grant Fraser (far right). **Photo by Paul Finelli**

COLLEGE NEWS

Community Access available to students

Jenn Ferry, 30, co-ordinator of Community Access Program (CAP), and Joseph Morris, 32, Webmaster for the Niagara Centre for Community Leadership, demonstrate the services offered by CAP.

Photo by Collin Coulis

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

It's time to spread the word about one of the college's best-kept secrets: the Niagara Centre for Community Leadership's (NCCL) Community Access Program (CAP).

CAP is a program, sponsored by Industry Canada, that uses schools, libraries and community centres to provide the public with a place to use free Internet and computer services.

Located at the Welland campus's Hennepin Hall, in room H12B, CAP has four computers with free Internet access for public use and one-on-one instruction.

CAP now offers a number of new services such as scanning, colour printing and Web design for a small fee. The centre also offers tips on what to look for when buying a first computer.

The CAP site is supervised by Jenn Ferry, 30, CAP co-ordinator, and Joseph Morris, 32, NCCL Webmaster.

"(CAP's) much more relaxed than going to some of the other labs we have around here. There's always someone here who can help out," says Morris, a former student of Niagara's Journalism-Print program.

Community response has been "great so far," says Ferry. She says that although many students come to use the centre, a large, growing portion of the regular clientele are seniors.

"It's a nice, comfortable environment, especially for people who don't know anything about computers," says Ferry.

She says she thinks it's important for the seniors to learn about computers and acquire Internet research skills.

"I don't feel anybody should be left behind, because society is growing," says the CAP co-ordinator. "There's no reason for anyone to be left out in the dark."

CAP is open Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 2:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday and from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday. The centre is also open on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Those wanting to know more about CAP can call 735-2211 ext. 7670.

NCCL's CAP site has had about 110 visitors since it was launched last November, in a ceremony attended by actor Max Gail, who played Wojo on TV's Barney Miller.

There are 18 CAP sites across the Niagara region, including the Welland campus location.

College hopes for applied degree 'opportunity'

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Niagara College officials remain hopeful they will offer students applied degrees within two years. Less than one-third of Ontario's colleges will be granted the authority to issue them.

"Our goal is to have applied degrees that are an opportunity for students of other programs," says Bonnie Rose, Niagara College vice-president academic.

She explains the applied degree offers students additional studies "above and beyond" current programs.

Within about two years the government will be introducing a maximum of eight applied degree "pilots" into the college system.

Since there is a stipulation that applied degrees can only be offered by colleges if a university does not already offer a degree in that program, Niagara will submit only two applications for applied degrees.

"Whatever we put forth we want quality assurance."

The programs, Rose explains as "two likely areas" for the college to submit applications for, are Hospitality Management and Virtual Reality.

"In both of these areas we have unique strength," comments Rose with a confident grin.

"There are no other colleges with an on-campus virtual reality centre, such as the one we are developing."

Rose says once a student completes an applied degree it will give degree credentials and allow employment flexibility across borders under to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

If the college were granted with one of the eight pilots, Rose says, it would likely add a year onto the program.

"It's a competitive process," describes Rose of the arrangement between the 24 colleges, adding, "Many students are interested in going on to complete a degree."

Maid of the Mist Centre gets 'high-tech' expansion

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

Some big changes are happening.

An expansion at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist campus is set to begin this spring.

There will be modifications to the campus building, as well as a new 132-suite student residence.

Students at the campus can expect to see new regular and theatre-style classrooms, an expanded cafeteria, and student lounge areas, says Ted Ens, project manager of the expansion.

The Learning Resource Centre will be re-located to a new and expanded area in the building, while more faculty and student services staff offices will be built "to accommodate the increasing student enrolment in the near future," he says.

The Kerrio Dining Room will also be seeing some changes. As well as an expansion to allow seating for 120 people, a new, "high-tech" food demonstration and lecture theatre and a food and bake demonstration lab will be added.

The student residence, to be located on the northeast corner of the campus, will be a three-storey building with student lounge and student services area.

"The residence will be a self-financed project and the revenues from the suite rentals being the primary source of revenue," Ens says.

Funding for the expansion to the campus building will be partly

DAVID TAYLOR

funded by the SuperBuild fund of the provincial government, with the balance coming from the Niagara College Foundation's fund-raising.

David Taylor, director of the hospitality and tourism division, says there is a growth in the demand for "more skilled and knowledgeable workers" in the industry.

"Our expanded facility will allow us to respond to the demand for education and training within the industry to address the increasing demand for qualified employees."

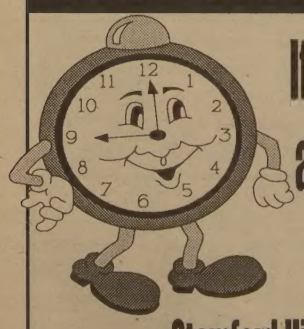
The expansion will be happening over the course of the academic year and is expected to be complete in September 2002.

"We will be making every effort to minimize the inconvenience to our students," Taylor says.

With the expansion set to go, Taylor says he feels it will entice future students to the Maid of the Mist Centre.

"The enhanced technological applications within the learning environment, the high degree of industry involvement with our students, the ability to gain great practical experience through access to numerous college and industry special events, the tremendous networking opportunities, and the richness of our division's international resources will provide a definite motivation to study at Niagara College for any individual serious about pursuing a career in hospitality and tourism."

Reunion Time!



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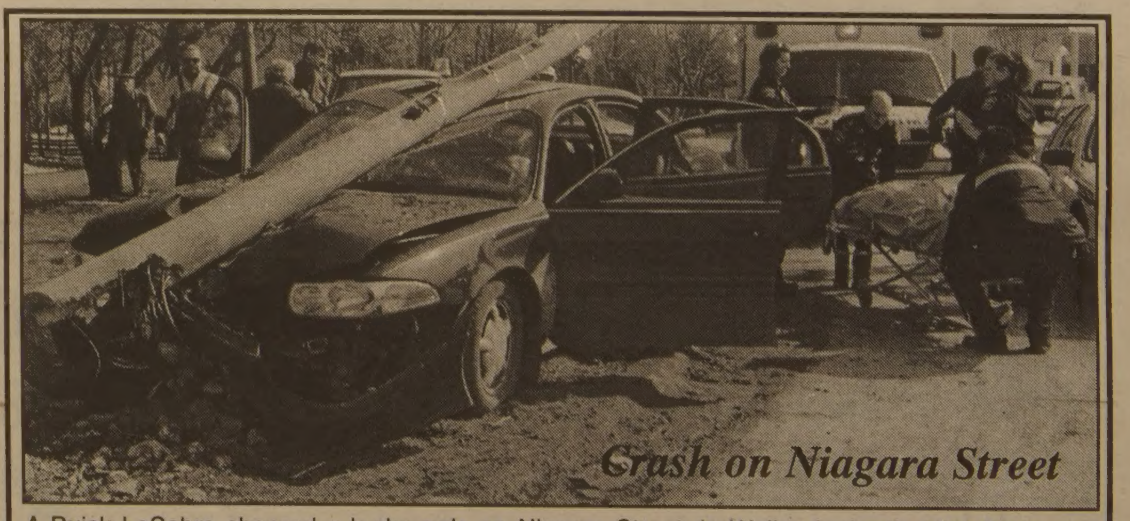


A Buick LeSabre sheared a hydro pole on Niagara Street, in Welland, shortly after 2 p.m. on Tuesday. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

REGIONAL OUTLOOK

Chair: Niagara 'only going to get better'

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

"I would like to say at the end of this term that I have achieved something (through) the completion of projects and making a difference. I truly believe in the fact that you have to set your goals," says Niagara Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman.

"Whenever I decide I want to leave, I want to leave a solid groundwork for the future."

Zimmerman's goals include working on the mid-peninsula traffic corridor and on a Smart Growth program. As well the region is concentrating on an early years development program and to provide a better infrastructure for Niagara.

The mid-peninsula corridor project is the extension of Highway 406 into Port Colborne. In 10 years, Zimmerman, 46, hopes to see "on the first of April we have cut the ribbon and the first truck from the Fort Erie Peace Bridge is lumbering down the highway."

The Smart Growth program is a new fibre-optics strategy of wiring the community. This strategy will be in developments with infrastructures.

With the early years development program, "we spearheaded an opportunity to ensure that children in the Niagara Region get a very good start." This project will give the region "a good opportunity to expand the best we can" to allow more opportunities for a child's development.

Infrastructure improvement will focus on the transit system. Zimmerman says she would like to see enhancements across the region through a GO bus or GO train.

In 10 years, Zimmerman foresees Niagara not having a labour shortage. "There is more training of people to work in companies that need them."

As well, "I see a healthy workforce. There are more opportunities for wellness and creating a healthy work environment."

"I see that Niagara is going to change, but I think it's only going to get better."

As for Niagara's greenery, "I hope the green side of Niagara is going to be important to people in 10 years as it is for me and this council."

Asked about amalgamating municipalities within the Niagara Region, Zimmerman says, "The whole issue of amalgamation isn't over yet. The provincial government isn't going to force amalgamation, but has left the tools in place in case there is a need to visit the issue in the future."

"The whole issue has forced us to look at ourselves and collaborate on the service-sharing issue. As responsible leaders of the community, we must ensure we get along. If the municipalities get along and co-operate, the taxpayers will benefit from this co-operation."

Commenting on her favourite aspect of being regional chair, she says, "People are one of the most important aspects to making changes and get a good understanding of where they are coming from."

The business aspect of regional government "fascinates" her, she says. It's the "whole concept of developing the region as an economic engine."

The mid-peninsula corridor, promoting Niagara, tax policies, job strategies and working with educational institutions are "part of the whole business aspect that fascinates me."

The new council helping Zimmerman make regional decisions for the future is "wonderful."

"We are going to have challenges. Democracy is debate. If there is no debate, then there is no democracy. (We) can't always have an agreement. Whether the council was left of centre (on the political spectrum) or right of centre, council would still have the opportunity to debate the issues."

It would be "debilitating" for Zimmerman if the council were not moving forward with decisions, but "the right intentions are most important and council has the right intentions in mind."

Zimmerman was born in Burnaby, B.C. Her family moved to Grimsby when she was seven years old. "B.C. has a boom-bust economy," Zimmerman explains. Her father needed work and she comes from a large family. She does have another sibling who passed away.

One brother works for the police force, another works for Canadian International Development Agency and another works in his wife's family business as a furniture designer. Zimmerman has two sisters. One sister is an Anglican priest while the other is an interior designer.

When Zimmerman is not passing bylaws and going to functions on behalf of the region, she likes to Tae Bo, ski, cycle and do anything athletic. She says she enjoys watching her 19-year-old son play hockey. Regarding her favourite National Hockey League team, she says, "Toronto (Maple Leafs), of course."

Although there are many places in the world to live, Zimmerman says she would remain in Niagara. "I like Niagara. I'd like to have a place with lots of property. I love horses, so I would like to have a couple of horses. I really enjoy Niagara. I mean, why not. We have everything right here. I love Grimsby; it's a great community."

Regional Chair Debbie Zimmerman takes a break in her office at Regional Headquarters on St. David's Road in Thorold. Zimmerman represented the Niagara Region during Team Canada's Trade Mission through China.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Zimmerman has travelled to Norway and New Zealand where she had family working. Her education includes a Journalism-Print diploma at Niagara College. She took a course in municipal administration through the Association of Municipalities, Clerks and Treasure's program through a college in Kingston, Ont.

After attending journalism here, Zimmerman worked at the weekly newspaper, *Grimsby Independent*, from 1975 to 1985, in the marketing and advertising department.

In 1978, Zimmerman began her political career as a council member for the town of Grimsby.

Her regional government career began in 1989 when she was appointed to fill a vacant Region Council seat for Grimsby and was elected in 1997 as Regional Chair.

During her years on regional council, Zimmerman has held various positions including:

- Vice-chair of corporate and financial service committee
- Chair of the regional development charges committee
- Chair of the 911 (emergency number) committee
- Member of the planning services and audit committee
- Director of the Niagara Economic Tourism Corporation from 1995 to 1997
- Commissioner of the Niagara Escarpment Commission from 1994 to 1997
- Director of the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Board from 1988 to 1998
- Chair of the Grimsby Welcome Centre Committee.

Other jobs for Zimmerman include working part time for a member of the provincial Parliament and having her own communications consulting business.

Her job as regional chair includes managing council meetings, moving the region forward economically, working on budgets, working with committees on regional issues such as public works, and representing the region at many events across Niagara and outside the region.

Zimmerman did just that during a recent trip to China with the Team Canada trade mission.

To make business contacts and support Niagara College, represented by college President Dan Patterson, was on the objectives list too.

"Niagara is a known commodity worldwide," says Zimmerman. The trip to China was "a promotional opportunity to showcase what we (Niagara) have here."

Bearing ice wine gifts, Zimmerman travelled with more than 600 Team Canada delegates. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien headed the trade mission.

Regarding the ice wine, Zimmerman says, "It's a favourite of theirs (the people from China)." Along with that, Chinese also know the region for the Casino (Niagara) and the Niagara Falls.

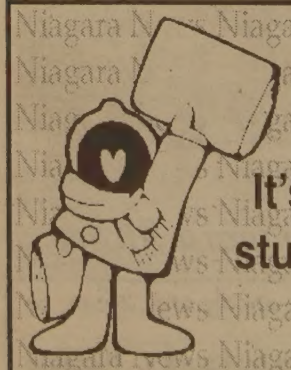
Zimmerman explained the trip was an offer made to a number of mayors in the region. They decided, during a regional council meeting, that Zimmerman would be the ideal candidate. "It worked out well."

During the 10-day visit, Team Canada travelled to Peking (Beijing), Shanghai and Hong Kong. An hour and a half away from Shanghai is a city named Ton Xiang which is twinned with the Niagara Region and Welland.

Zimmerman observed that Beijing and Shanghai were undergoing "lots of construction." She describes Hong Kong as being "very commercialized" resembling Vancouver, B.C., except Hong Kong has more buildings. "The construction is phenomenal."

The differences between Hong Kong and the rest of China were "startling."

Zimmerman describes Chrétien to be "an energetic individual. I quite like his personality. It was very nice to be on a trade mission with a leader of his calibre. I like the way he deals with people."



Out with the old . . . and in with the new!

It's that time of year when we must say "good luck" to our 2nd-year journalism students while on placement, and "welcome" to the 1st-year journalism students who take over the last two editions of the Niagara News on April 6 and 20.

COMMUNITY LIASION

Volunteers still needed for home renovation project

By DAN D'AMICO
Staff Writer

A nice sunny day is what everyone hopes for when they begin a project like the Many Hands project for Casa el Norte in Fort Erie.

This year, students from the Special Events Management program at Niagara College, have decided to raise funds towards renovations for a refugee house.

Casa el Norte is a community homelessness initiative that provides safety and support to newcomers settling in Canada. It is a non-profit organization.

So far the students have raised more than $6,000 in the fund-raisers they have organized. Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd. has donated $5,000 and Casa el Norte has provided $2,000.

This year's recruitment goal is to have 100 volunteers for the event. The drive to get that many volunteers is under way, says Myrna McKeen, part of the volunteer committee. She says presentations have been made to more than 25 classrooms across the college. "The responses have been great with teachers welcoming us to their classrooms. We're on target."

Shelley Carley, part of the marketing and communications committee, says, "Things are going well. We're hoping for a good sunny day, but we'll go rain or shine. We're progressing well."

The two houses to be renovated are at 277 and 281 Central Ave., in Fort Erie. Everything is being renovated, from shelving in the kitchen to tiles on the floor. Even the exterior is being painted. Windows will be replaced, fences will be erected and siding will be installed.

"The students have worked very hard to create a successful and lasting event. Their work in the fund-raisers has demonstrated their professionalism and dedication to the project," says David Veres, co-ordinator of the program.

The project is still looking for volunteers to assist in the event. The project begins on April 21 and registration for volunteers starts at 8 a.m. The project needs sponsors to assist in the areas of construction and landscaping materials.

Information for employment

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

Slogan-festooned knick-knacks, employers and job opportunities crowded the cafeteria of the Glendale campus of Niagara College on March 15 as Career Fair 2001 took place.

Rows of information booths were presented to students of Brock University and Niagara College, offering students opportunities for full-time and part-time employment.

Company representatives offered answers to the questions students had on future employment.

The presentations ranged from full-time job opportunities with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Armed Forces, Niagara-on-the-Lake Vintage Inns, the Hamilton Police Service, AC Nielsen (a company that provides clients with a better understanding of their markets) and many more.

Also represented were Community Living, the Ontario Association of Community Living and Bethesda, all of which offer job opportunities for graduates of the Educational Resources and Special Needs program.

The part-time opportunities came from such employers as Marineland and the Clifton Hill Group, which represents a number of businesses in the tourist area of Niagara Falls, and Casino Niagara.

The fair was presented as an opportunity for students to see what employers are looking for in new employees.

Niagara College's career fair 2001 at the Glendale campus, gave students opportunities for future occupations.

Photo by Kandis Thorsby

This presenter explains the career options her workplace has to offer to people looking for work. The Career Fair was held at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, on March 15.

Photo by Heidi Morrison

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EDITORIALS

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Students should seize opportunities

A mind is a terrible thing to waste.

People have many reasons for seeking post-secondary education, some want credentials for a career, others want to find out what it is they have an aptitude for.

There are people who think college and university are a waste of time, who believe acquiring knowledge for its own sake is a pointless exercise.

This simply is not true.

If you have the opportunity to expand your mind and gain a greater understanding of the world around you, you should seize it.

I spent five years after high school trying to figure out what to do with my life. I thought school would be a waste of time if I didn't know what I wanted to do.

I was wrong.

I feel like I have let some of the best years of my life slip by working dead-end jobs and getting nowhere.

I should have gone to school.

This is a lesson I learned the hard way; don't make the same mistakes as me.

We are fortunate to live in a country where opportunities to broaden our horizons exist in such abundance.

The cost of education is a factor of course, but when measured against the potential gains, it is a minor concern. Debts will be paid off in a few years, but the knowledge and experiences will be with you for a lifetime.

No course is a waste of time, no program a waste of money.

I have heard students complain about their programs; I have heard them express doubts about their future.

All I have to say is that if you learned anything; you didn't waste your time.

Go out and read, live, love and embrace life in all its manifestations.

If you don't push yourself, you are just existing, not living.

Calum McNeil

Quebec Premier Landry a real threat

Canada has a new threat washing up on the shores of Parliament Hill.

"Damn right," says Bernard Landry, Quebec's new premier.

Even before Landry was sworn in as premier on March 8, he promised to be forthright with the rest of the country in pumping up the sovereignty debate.

Ralph Klein, the premier of Alberta, describes Landry as a greater threat to unity than Lucien Bouchard, former premier of Quebec. This statement should not be disputed.

Landry says the Quebec sovereigntists can win a referendum within the next few years because of a "historical trend."

Landry finds it "depressing" to watch Quebec athletes win medals under the Canadian flag at the Olympics.

For Landry, the so-called "Quebec athletes" win medals at the Olympics because they feel pride for their nation. It's not which province they represent, but their cultural nation.

Although Landry wants statehood for the French-speaking citizens of the province, what happens to immigrants?

He says there will be restricted access to English schooling by "rectifying a loophole" in the province's language law.

"Quebec must be as French as Argentina is Spanish or Germany is German," says Landry.

Immigrants come to Canada and learn English, but to push them to learn French shouldn't happen, unless the opportunity to learn English is available as well.

With Landry's outlandish ideas, he obviously doesn't know whom he's dealing with.

Quebec Liberal leader Jean Charest's criticism of Landry is that the man is "too quick to pick fights" with Ottawa.

Charest says Landry was "overly hard" on Quebec's role in securing the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City. He agrees that Ottawa had no choice but to reject Landry's view that Quebec is a nation and has a right to address the meeting.

Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin has told Landry that he should concentrate on the economic issues, instead of separatism.

If Quebec were to separate, the question remaining is what would happen to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland?

Quebec can't convince the rest of Canada these provinces will still be with Canada, because with Quebec in the middle, this makes the issue of a united Canada more complicated.

Something is rotten in the province of Quebec. Landry will make the smell stronger than Bouchard could have ever made it.

Jennifer Chornley

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus.

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INSIGHTS

Becoming famous takes more than just predictions

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer
Column

How many times have you heard somebody say, "I'm going to be famous someday," and wanted to slap that person back to reality?

The people who say these things have a rather tenuous grasp on discernable reality. Merely stating one's apparent destiny to be a star is as effective as saying, "My car's going to be filled with gas," while driving on an empty tank. Maybe it will. Most likely, your car will slowly come to a stop. You'll have to walk your starry-eyed rear end to a local service station.

Fame doesn't happen overnight. Actress Heather Graham had been acting for 12 years before Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me made her a star. One of this year's Best Supporting Actor Academy Award nominees, Benicio Del Toro, had been working for 14 years before he found success. You can't just snap your fingers and expect fame to appear.

It's also a bad idea to sit around and wait to be "discovered." True, Toni Braxton was discovered while singing to herself at a gas station, Buffy the Vampire Slayer's David Boreanaz was discovered while walking his dog, and Eyes Wide Shut's Leelee Sobieski was discovered while eating lunch in her school cafeteria, but instances like those have a one-in-a-million chance of happening, Therefore, realistically speaking, the same is not likely to happen to you.

Just as with every other professional, actors, directors, writers and singers have to start at the bottom and work their way up. If you want to be a famous actor, do regional theatre. Join a casting agency and be an extra in some local Toronto productions. If you want to be a director, go to film school. Aspiring authors should write short stories and send them to literary journals. I'm not sure what singers are supposed to do, but I'm sure they have to start out somewhere. Church choir? I don't know.

The next time somebody utters the prediction "I'm going to be famous someday" but does nothing to make that goal happen, tell that person to enjoy a future of menial jobs and unrealized dreams.

Student replaces 'tendency to quit' with journalism diploma

By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer
Column

Look, ma. I didn't quit.

In April, I will be graduating from the Journalism-Print program. I know a lot of you will also be graduating, but for me, this is huge.

See, I've always had this tendency to quit everything I started once I felt that I had reached my peak. I quit figure skating just as people started to whisper, "She's going to be a pro." I quit dance lessons after I made it to the teacher's class. I quit oil painting after I created my own masterpiece, and I quit cheerleading after I, as the captain and dance choreographer, and my team made it to Myrtle Beach, S.C., to represent Canada.

Whether it was a fear of failing or just the idea of going out in a blast instead of fading away, I always quit.

I blame it partially on having the typical multiple personalities of a Gemini and partially on my mind's constant desire to learn something new.

It's been quite a journey.

I've wanted to be everything from a carpenter, to an archeologist, to an oceanographer, to a hairstylist, to a tornado chaser or a peacekeeper.

You name it, I've wanted to be it. I couldn't tell you how many times I ran home to my family and said, "I'm going to be a (fill in the blank)," but through it all, my mother always said, "You should be a writer." I was never being defiant when I chose a different path. Rather, I was just denying my talent.

I never quite knew my role in this world.

To describe them succinctly, my sister Charisse is the smart one, Shannon is the beautiful one, Ryan is the athletic one and Jordan is the comedian. As the middle daughter, I fittingly fall somewhere in between. Don't get me wrong, I don't think that's a bad thing. I like to think of myself as the seeker of knowledge. Sounds wonderful, doesn't it?

It is wonderful. You see, the beautiful thing about having a talent for writing is that you can never create your masterpiece. It's a constant challenge. It's always new.

So, thank you, mom and dad, for pushing me into the field of English. Thank you to my brothers, sisters and the rest of my family for always praising my work. Thank you, Jon, for, although hesitantly, accepting that for the past two years, homework had to come first.

And thank you, Niagara College for Gary Erb, Phyllis Barnatt, Jhim Burwell, Paul Dayboll and Nancy Geddie, who successfully kept me wanting to learn more.

Although I'm not pursuing a full-time career in journalism, I'm off to get a bachelor of arts degree in English this September.

Who knows? If everything goes as planned, I may be teaching English or creative writing to some of your own teenagers one day.

Smoker explains 'baffling phenomenon' of cigarette smoking

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer
Column

Why in this day and age, with all the medical evidence we have, why do people still smoke cigarettes? What do they get out of it?

I'll tell you. As a smoker myself, I have a few theories on this baffling phenomenon.

People smoke, first, because compared to the large equipment costs of some activities like hockey or paintball, smoking is a cheap hobby. There's virtually no start-up cost. Yes, for about $5 you too can take up the fine art of smoking and have years of fun (until it's time to haul out the oxygen tent).

A common misconception among non-smokers is that you become a smoker after taking your first drag of a cigarette, not true I say. It takes time to be initiated into smoking social-circles; it takes time for the body to truly appreciate the delicious addiction to nicotine.

So, when does one officially earn the title of "smoker?" Well, although buying that first package of cigarettes is an important step in earning the title, one is not actually a smoker until he or she has developed the infamous "smoker's cough." A properly developed cough should cause the smoker to hack phlegm up during the morning shower, as well as burst into uncontrollable coughing fits every time the smoker climbs a flight of stairs.

People also smoke for social reasons because smoking is a very social activity. I'm sure everyone has, at one time or another, seen smokers huddled together in their tight-knit circles, talking loudly. It is not unusual to spot a group of smokers huddled outside the entrances to most campuses and office buildings.

People also smoke because it's easy. It involves none of the difficult skills associated with complicated hobbies like rock climbing, deep-sea diving or sky diving; it's simple and anyone can do it.

Many non-smokers are concerned about the harmful effects of second-hand cigarette smoke. They have my utmost sympathy. I know I wouldn't want hurt any one (it's bad karma), but don't worry smokers have been banished from most public places, with the exception of outdoors, where there's still lots of fresh air. So, all you non-smokers can just take a hike — unless the great outdoors are too smoky for you.

Letters to the Editor:

College committed to tackling financial challenges

Dear Editor:

Above a recent article about the state of the College's finances ($5.6 million deficit forecasted by college, page 1, *Niagara News*, Friday, March 9, 2001, Volume 31, No. 12) is a wonderful example of a sensational and misleading headline that fails to reflect the story below it.

The story accurately reports that projected funding shortfalls of $2.6 million in 2002/03 and $3 million in 2003/04 represent a worst case scenario and would only be realized if the college took no action to address the budget challenges which it has absolutely no intention of doing. The headline would have readers believe otherwise.

Let's be clear: the college is committed to tackling the financial challenges and staying in the black without compromising the integrity and quality of our programs and services.

Sincerely,
Darrell Neufeld
Manager, Media Relations
Niagara College

Reader relives her South African experience through one of our writer's articles

Dear Editor:

I want to congratulate Jennifer Chornley on the article that she wrote about my international experiences that appeared in the March 16, 2001 issue of *Niagara News*.

I was able to relive my Southern African experiences through her writing.

Also I have had several people comment very positively on the article including many community people who obviously frequent the Avondale stores and other sources of *Niagara News*. I was proud to tell them about her skills as an interviewer.

You should also know that Tim Rigby (mayor of St. Catharines) also complimented her skills to me in relation to the article that she wrote about him (Feb. 9, 2001).

Thank you for a thoughtful article that had the added benefit of highlighting the very worthy cause.

I also enjoyed the article about divorce. I assume that she has not been divorced just because of her age but I might be wrong. In any case, she hit it right on.

Once again, thanks for the great work on the article. I enjoyed our interview and I really appreciate the profile that the article gave to the landmine issue of the Adopt-a Minefield program.

Martha Casson
Vice-President
Enterprise and Student Services, Niagara College

INSIGHTS

Violence no solution to solving issues

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer
Column

Violence is never the answer.

People often resort to violence when solving their problems but I never really understood the logic behind it.

I think it is just plain silly to use your fists or weapons to solve a problem. A lot less time and energy would be wasted if people could confront each other and talk out their issues.

Every day in this world someone dies because of violence. This is sad because many deaths could have been prevented.

Throughout history, groups of people have combined to form gangs. Gangs have been in existence for hundreds of years. Pirates were considered a gang.

I've often wondered the reason for a group of people wanting to take their hostile emotions out on others.

People never benefit from their violent behaviours. They usually end up in prison because of their actions.

This world would be a lot better place to live if people could forget about fighting for a minute and just get along with each other. I think the cure for violence could be achieved if people could accept one another's differences.

The next time you look to violence to solve a problem, think about the people you will be hurting. The victims won't be the only ones hurt by the tragedy. Their families and friends will suffer a loss too.

Student thanks those who made difference

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer
Column

Wow. Where did the time go?

I sit here at my computer trying to absorb the fact that I am about to graduate from college. How is this possible? I feel like the little 17-year-old I was when I arrived.

I can still remember the day I moved into residence, nervous excitement fluttering in my stomach.

And the questions! Will I like it here? Will I make lots of friends? Did I make the right decision?

After two years here, I can honestly say yes to all those pesky questions.

I've made many wonderful friends. Those friends, I know, will be the ones there for me in the future.

It's funny the bonds you make with people at college. You can go to school with people all the way from kindergarten to OAC and call them friends. Then you go away to college and feel as if you've met your second family. In two years, these new people have shared more with you than you ever thought possible.

When I go home to visit, it feels like just that — a visit. Home isn't really home anymore. It's a strange feeling, but an exciting one too. I know I'm growing up.

Oh, I did come here to get an education too, didn't I? Well, that part worked out as well. The Journalism-Print program? What can I say about that?

Well, I could start with my teachers. In first year, Mrs. Nancy Geddie made us all realize just how little grammar we were taught in high school, while Paul Dayboll taught us the secrets to QuarkXpress.

Gary Erb is the king of Canadian Press and helped make the transition into college much more enjoyable.

After a successful first year, it was time for the second. I remember being apprehensive about the second-year teacher and Journalism-Print program co-ordinator, Phyllis Barnatt. We had all heard she was one tough cookie, but we all learned some important lessons fast.

You get your work done and you know what the word "deadline" means. Phyllis has given us the tools to make it in this business. As it turned out, she became one of the most important factors in my time here at Niagara College.

I will also fondly remember the multitude of times I have heard Jhim Burwell yell from his office, "Heidi! Get in here! Where is the other half of your assignment?" Or all the times he just wasn't able to wake us up in his 8:30 a.m. lectures, although he sure did try. We appreciate the effort, Jhim.

You learn some useful information in college. You learn your lessons about alcohol. You learn that sometimes you just need your mom. You learn that Kraft Dinner is really its own food group. And you learn no matter how much coffee you have after an all-nighter, you just cannot stay awake in class.

It has been a great two years and a college experience I will never forget.

Thank you, to everyone. I wish you all success in the future.

Now, I suppose there's just one thing we can do as we enter the "real world." In the words of Scott Thomson, a fellow *Niagara News* writer, "Giddy up."

Faculty's note: It was our pleasure.

Student realizes college career almost over

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer
Column

Suddenly, reality has hit me.

My college career is quickly coming to an end, right before my eyes. The past seven months of my life have gone by so fast I can barely remember what I did to keep up. Through it all, I've learned and experienced more than I ever expected.

When I left home to come to Niagara College, I expected my life to be the same when I finished school, as it was when I started. It turns out I was wrong. My life has changed drastically in the past two years. I don't regret one second of it, though. As each day passes by, I find myself increasingly scared about what's going to happen after April.

Now that I've gotten to where I am, and I can get my foot out the door, I don't want to. I'm too scared to find out what's in store for me, or what's not. The thought of growing up and taking on a lot of responsibility doesn't sound as appealing to me as it did when I was 15.

Part of me thinks I'm not ready to take such a big step in my life, but the other part doesn't know where to turn anymore. I'm 21, and I don't know what I want to do with my life. I thought after I finished school, I would know what I wanted to do, but I feel as if I'm in Grade 12 trying to make the same decisions all over again. The longer I sit around and try to figure out what I really want to do, the more frustrating it seems to get.

Someone once told me I'll probably go through five different career changes in my life. Choosing the first seems to be the hardest.

I know once I get out into "the real world" and figure out what I'm good at and what I want to do, something will eventually lead me in the right direction.

Klein re-elected to third term by landslide, although many unfair policies opposed by some Albertans

By ANDREW SOVRAN
Staff Writer
Column

On March 12, the people of Alberta elected Ralph Klein to his third term as premier. The Progressive Conservatives have held power in Alberta since 1971.

Klein's re-election should not surprise many people. What surprised me was the frenzy of support that Klein generated on election day.

The Tories scored a staggering majority government, winning 74 of the 83 seats in the Alberta legislature. They received 62 per cent of the popular vote. Klein enjoys a level of popularity unheard of in modern Canadian politics.

Prior to the election, I was under the impression that Albertans were deeply divided over the issues of private health care and hydro deregulation.

Bill 11, which Klein brought into legislation last year, angered many by allowing private health care clinics to set up shop in Alberta. Conservatives stressed that this would not mean private hospitals would be allowed to operate, and that the services provided by these clinics would be limited.

However, the list of private services is expected to be expanding soon. This is due to clinics being given the green light for overnight stays. Two-tier health care is now a reality in Alberta.

Almost everyone in Alberta will tell you hydro deregulation has proved to be a disaster there. Privatization has sent prices soaring. The same thing happened in California, where residents are paying three times more than what they used to for power.

Alberta is also famous for its policies on debt reduction. However, people who have championed debt reduction have forgotten the $22 billion in tax-breaks Klein has given to Alberta's oil companies, not to mention Alberta has a single-tax system that is grossly unfair.

Alberta is constantly referred to as the richest province in Canada, but there is a widening gap between the rich and the poor. Klein has spent years gleefully cutting social programs designed to help Alberta's less fortunate. Alberta is also one of the only provinces with no legislation mandating equal pay for equal work.

Maybe Albertans are happy footing the bill for corporate welfare while their social services are being gutted. I certainly wouldn't be.

Perhaps it is unfair to target Alberta. After all, what's happening there is happening all across the country, to a lesser extent. Let's hope all Canadians will put their collective foot down someday soon, before these corporate fiends dominate every realm of the public domain.

INSIGHTS

More than goodbyes

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer
Column

The Niagara region is filled with wonderful people I had the pleasure of knowing this school year.

Talking to more than 50 people from the region allowed me to have the total experience any college journalism student should have.

I had the pleasure of talking with four wonderful authors, two fabulous mayors, an outgoing Niagara regional chair and 26 brave candidates for the 2000 federal election.

Add to the list an energetic executive director of the Alzheimer Society of Niagara, one media-shy college official, the ever-smiling college president (whenever I seen him), a former prime minister and an ambassador for banning landmine action.

I worked with a great bunch of people.

There were days of bear-like behaviour between a certain faculty member and me, because of all of the above, but the major tornadoes passed. They were weak ones anyway. This isn't close to what I have to conquer in the real world.

Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator of the Journalism-Print program, is an awesome woman to work with, although gruff on first impression.

I know this because I was one of the first few first-year journalism students to deal with her, being one of the first editors in April 2000. In second year though, we got along excellently and I received good advice. We were able to work out differences through extensive negotiations and contracts.

Gary Erb, a faculty member in the Journalism-Print program, is a great person. He reminds me of Barney Rubble, Fred Flintstone's best friend on the cartoon The Flintstones.

In addition to the joking, he helped with ideas on how to make the newspaper look more attractive, especially the profile pages.

Jhim Burwell, teacher of photojournalism, is a wonderful source of information regarding photographic ideas, traditional printing, scanning, and other photographic means.

I just wanted to say an extended thank you to everyone in the community with whom I talked over the course of the school year. You were all wonderful, including the staff and faculty at Niagara College in Welland.

I wish everyone all the best for many years to come in health and prosperity.

Hey, one of us has to strike it rich; the question is who will it be?

No looking back, only forward

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer
Column

With difficulty, I write this column hoping to best convey the feelings and experiences with which I leave Niagara College. Now, I admit to there being a part of me that doesn't want to leave just yet.

I know it sounds like a cliché, but it seems like yesterday I stepped into Niagara College's Welland campus with a mix of trepidation and eagerness. Truth is, I feel I haven't done it all yet at the college, especially in the program. True, I have certainly learned a lot, maybe more than I had hoped for or imagined.

From my professor Gary Erb, I'll always take with me the quasi-mantras: "You want to wave around your Journalism-Print diploma," or "Follow the money." His support and words of encouragement I'll cherish. From my professor Phyllis Barnatt, I won't forget her "five-cents rule" this year. (For "every extra word" we put in an assignment or news article, we'd, in theory, owe a nickel). She also said, "When you assume, you make an ass out of you and me." Her support and words of encouragement I also cling to.

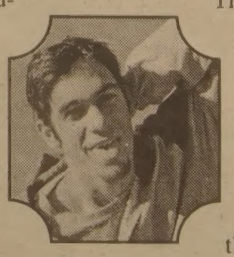
I think we'll all keep in our heads the many hard and fast grammar rules delivered in first year. Professor Nancy Geddie, taught us that- duh-grammar has a place in journalism. Did she ever slash through our pages during production of the *Niagara News* with the red pen. Paul Dayboll taught us desktop publishing last year and proved newspaper layout and design can be quite fun. Just one question: What don't you know about computers?

We cannot forget our photography instructor, Jhim Burwell. While technically a part-time instructor with the hours he puts in at this place you'd think he WAS full-time. In almost every sense of the word, he was there to offer his assistance.

To all these fine, dedicated and inspiring staff, I thank you immensely! Farewell, Niagara College. Farewell, everybody in the Journalism-Print program. Anxious as I am to forge ahead in my life, I'm sad to say goodbye too soon.

Why you should fear media

By DAN D'AMICO
Staff Writer
Column



We can make you or break you, or bring you fame, and so lead you to money, recognition and adulation in the public eye. We can destroy your reputation. We can bring disgrace upon you. What we say goes. People fear us, love us and rely on us. We are the media.

You have always heard the term "the power of the media." What most people do not know is how much power we actually have. People do not know how information can lead you to all of those things described above.

Take this scenario. The media decide to place reports on the same issue on the front page of the major newspapers in Canada and the United States. Suddenly this story, which was only a whisper in the wind, is now familiar to millions of people on the continent.

A more realistic scenario would be a political one. Pretend there is a U.S. presidential voting process and it is a tight race between the two presidential candidates.

Note: For the sake of millions and millions of Americans, this presidential vote will only last the correct allotted amount of time of two to three days.

Imagine the media decided to break story after story on the front pages of those collective newspapers about one of the candidate's past mistakes. His or her image is destroyed and we all know the support for the candidate would be hurt because of it.

The candidate will hold press conference after press conference explaining why his or her mistake is acceptable and how he or she will still serve Americans. Too late. The damage is done.

We are like a silent, unstoppable weapon. Each year our soldiers (journalists) are killed for investigating something they are trying to bring to the public. If we decide to quit, the world quits with us. If we shut down one day, then the entire planet's communications shut down as well. Information is the fuel of every economy and corporation in our existence.

There is only one stipulation to our entire scheme. We must report the truth. People love the truth and they hate the truth. We give them the truth and sometimes we die for the truth. We've brought down presidents with the truth. We've made people famous with the truth. We've exposed scandals, saved endangered animals and warmed the hearts of many communities across the world. You should respect and fear us.

One door closes, another opens

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer
Column

It's hard to imagine that in a matter of days, my college career will be ending and the next phase of my life will begin. Where did the time go?

After two years, it's hard to believe it's almost over. I not only received an excellent education but we had some fun, learned how to make it on our own, quickly learned where everything in and out of the school was, but most important, I was able to build some really solid friendships.

Those are moments I will take with me, not just the long nights spent looking at a computer screen, or pulling the all-nighters to study for a test or finish an assignment, or doing homework while you're spending the weekend visiting family. No, I will remember the good times and the bad, because they are the moments that helped make it easiest to get through these years.

It isn't the idea of leaving that scares me, but more the idea of now being considered an adult. I don't mean a young adult but an adult, in the real world.

Everyone looks at you differently, as more than just a student.

These past two years have been spent preparing for this moment, when we take our knowledge and apply it to everyday life. The work may have been hard; sometimes the load was heavy, but I feel more prepared to go out into the world and take it on.

You see, all your hard work does pay off in the end, even when it seems hopeless.

Look ahead and not back. You have decided to live your life, venture out into the world and get a higher education. Congratulations, but remember that nothing in life is easy.

You have to work hard and study because making the grade isn't done on a whim. Never give up. You've worked this hard to get this far, don't quit now. You will never make it through life if you quit when things become difficult.

Look what perseverance and dedication has allowed me to do, graduate, which is the greatest prize you could receive.

View of world changes for student

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer
Column

It seems only yesterday I entered college and began a new chapter in the book of life. Now, almost two years later, it's time to wrap it up and start again.

At the end of March the group of students who have grown familiar with each other will go separate ways and venture into the "real world."

In April the second-year Journalism-Print program students will take field placement in various aspects of the journalism industry.

When I first entered journalism studies, I hoped I would one day follow in the footsteps of my father, Tony Ricciuto, an investigative reporter for the *Niagara Falls Review*, and now I will have the opportunity to work by his side.

While at Niagara College, I was able to learn the ins and outs of being a reporter.

I've experienced many different aspects of human life, while being a reporter for the *Niagara News*.

Although some experiences have been emotional, fun, boring and just interesting, each assignment has offered us the opportunity to learn.

From witnessing my father's experiences, and hearing stories from his day at work, I knew at a young age that his job was different from others.

To an "outsider" or non-reporter, you probably think being a reporter is just another job.

Sure, it seems as though we enter someone's life for a brief amount of time, ask a bunch of questions, return to the office to write the report and then resume regular life.

Once you live the life of a journalist, you will never view the world the same. Returning to regular life no longer exists.

For every story I have written, whether it is the accidental deaths of the two teenagers at the John Deere factory or following the ongoing court case of a woman killed in a workplace explosion, each story has an impact.

As I embark on another new chapter of life and leave the Niagara College scene behind, one thing is for sure: time spent at Niagara has been a learning experience.

Whether or not I make journalism my life-long career, journalism will always be a part of my life.

HERITAGE

Wilderness class gives environmental insight

By ANDREW SOVRAN
Staff Writer

Twenty-two Niagara College students left on Feb. 23 to spend eight days in northern Ontario for their Winter Wilderness Adventure class, an elective course held during the Break Week.

"(It's) a field trip disguised as a class," said Steve Faulkner, who attended the trip.

Faulkner, 21, is a third-year student in the Electrical Engineering Technology program. He describes the trip as "the experience of a lifetime. It was beautiful. I came back a new person refreshed.

"It was an excellent elective. The fact that I get credit for it in school is a bonus, but I would have done it just for fun. I would recommend it to anyone."

Valerie Grabove, consultant for the college's Centre for Professional Development and teacher for the Winter Wilderness Adventure course, agrees that the trip went well.

"I thought it was super," Grabrove said. "It was a fabulous group. Every year I come back and say, This is the best group yet.

"I very much enjoyed working with these students. By Wednesday, I was sure we had a pretty solid, self-directed team."

Grabove, who is teaching the course for the eighth time, said she enjoys the feedback she's received from students.

"It's always a terrific reward to run this course. The students learn tons."

The students arrived at the Smoothwater Ecolodge, in Temagami, Ont., eight hours after they left the Welland campus. That night, the students divided into teams to prepare themselves a four-course theme meal.

Grabove says team building was one of the trip's three major themes.

"On one level, the whole group is a team. We rely on everybody to be part of everything and to give and take certain leadership responsibilities." Grabove says there were activities that were "explicitly exploring the team dynamic."

On the first of two sessions before the trip, students were assigned a "secret buddy" whom they would look out for during the trip.

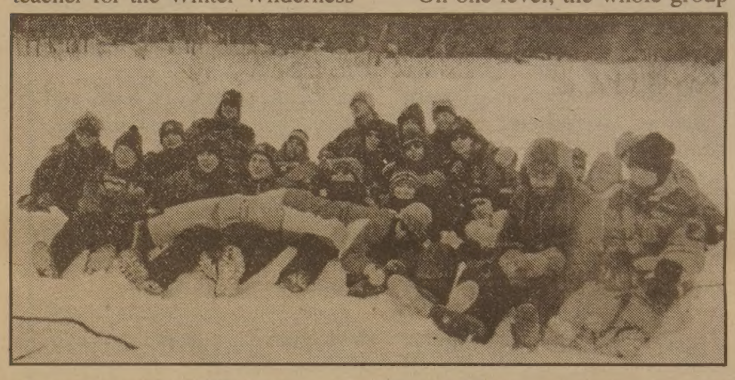
"Really, by the end of the week, everybody should feel that everybody is their secret buddy," said Grabove. "Also, we build in the secret buddy for a safety measure. It allows me to know that everybody has someone watching out for them."

Faulkner said another responsibility of the students was to encourage their secret buddies.

"(You would) make sure your secret buddy always had a smile on their face," Faulkner said. "Give them a compliment here and there (and) do nice things for them."

Another theme of the trip, Grabove says, is "the shrinking wilderness." Months before the trip, students were assigned to keep a clipping file on an environmental issue. Later, they are to write a summary of their file that incorporates what they learned from speakers who addressed them during the trip.

"The students have the opportunity to go up north and meet people who have something to say about a lot of different issues," Grabove said. "I'm hoping students will learn some of the non-urban perspectives, from people who live much closer to the land than we do."



Niagara's Winter Wilderness students of 2001.

Submitted photo

Students from the Winter Wilderness Adventure course go dog sledding.

Submitted photo

Faulkner said he enjoyed learning about environmental issues, like old growth forests.

"It was interesting," said Faulkner. "It caught my attention because I wasn't aware of all that."

Faulkner said one of the highlights was visiting a trapper's camp, operated by Robert Stitt.

"It was so cool. He's roughing it. It's just a way of life that no one would have any idea about."

Faulkner said the camp reminded him of a hunting camp he visits with his father.

"We walk into this camp and it's basically the same deal, except I go to that place for a week and Robert lives there his entire life."

Stitt traps beavers, wolves and other animals. Students had a chance to observe Stitt skinning a beaver. "There were a few weak stomachs," Faulkner said.

Faulkner said no students objected to Stitt's occupation.

"They understood that that's the way he lives."

Grabove said visiting the trapper's camp was part of learning different points of view. She pointed out that the owners of the Smoothwater Ecolodge were environmental activists.

Other activities included in the trip were dogsledding and snowshoeing. One day, the students took a 17-kilometre voyage on snowshoes. Faulkner said he and some other students estimated that they travelled more than 65 kilometres on snowshoes. No one had a problem with the long journeys, he said.

"Everyone was so excited and on a natural high. If there was any negativity, someone else was there to help you out. Everyone had your back. We had a really tight group."

Preserving our heritage, securing our future

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

The older, the better. The more ancient, the more secrets to reveal. Digging for research results in histories being reborn for people.

These are some of the things the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) members do while designating land, houses and other sites of Canadian heritage.

Ron Champman, of Ridgeway, Ont., chairman of the Niagara Falls LACAC branch, says the most interesting part of being on the committee involves the geneology research on area families whose members are seeking historical designation.

Chapman's excitement and passion are evident as one listens to stories about treasures of the region's founding families being discovered by today's residents. One is the story of the Irish Feniens, seasoned soldiers from the U.S. who planned to capture Fort Erie while 500 British soldiers and local men held this area.

Among the historic homes being researched are those of the Krafts, of Kraft Cheese fame, Garrison house, the Miller farm, the Hershey (Chocolate) family before they moved to Pennsylvania and many others.

Key to some of the searches are old churches, and their records, dating back to 1895.

Pam Minns, chairperson of the Niagara Region LACAC, says, "The only way to protect our heritage is to gain community knowledge and, as members of the LACAC, I feel that one of our jobs is to educate people so they gain an understanding of their heritage and its importance."

"It is really important to keep and preserve our heritage sites," says Minns, "because we are losing our industry. Heritage tourism is proven to be a growing industry through many facts and figures."

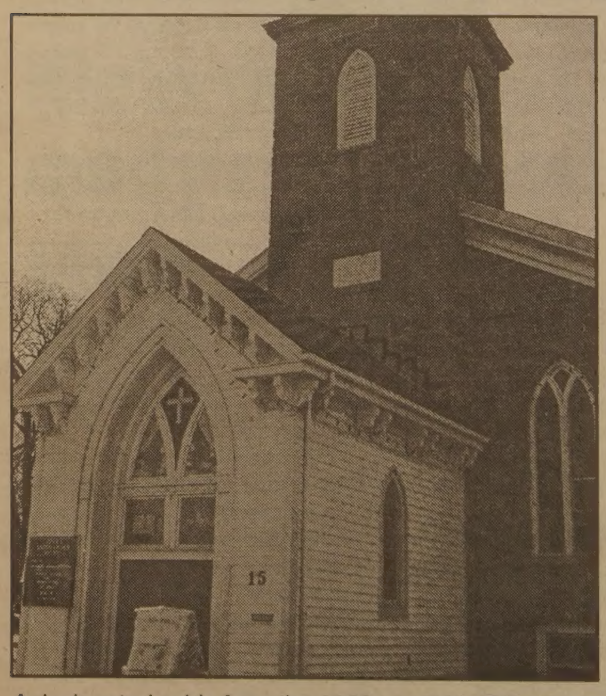
"It is also very important to our future economically. Architectural and heritage tourism is a very growing industry. It is really important to keep our heritage. If we don't secure our past we could lose our future."

People going on vacations often now look for a heritage experience; $1.3 billion was spent by heritage tourists in Canada.

The LACAC committee plans to add this new movement to its agenda.

The LACAC is looking for archeological students to do write ups on buildings in the Niagara region as the Niagara Falls branch is planning to write a book containing pictures and written stories about Niagara Falls houses, landmarks and other heritage memorabilia.

Anyone is able to join and vollunteers are always welcome.



A designated cabin from the 1800s, outside Ridgeway.

Photo by Kandis Thorsby

Saving our buildings

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

What is LACAC?

The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) is a municipally established committee in charge of advising council on local heritage matters and assisting the council in carrying out its heritage conservation program.

The Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) provides a framework within which municipalities can act to ensure the conservation of properties of historical and/or architectural significance.

A LACAC can be established at any time by municipal bylaw, with its members being appointed by municipal council in accordance with the OHA.

LACAC does tasks that include carrying out research, conducting a survey and inventory of local properties of historical and architectural significance, developing a community responsibility for its heritage resources through education programming, drafting a heritage policy for the Official Plan of the municipality, and formulating other policies and practices.

Members of LACAC serve their community as volunteers. Anyone with an interest in heritage conservation and who has the ability to work with the community as well as the municipal framework can participate. Funding for a LACAC is a responsibility of the municipal council.

A designated church in Thorold.

Photo by Kandis Thorsby

EYE ON NIAGARA

Security worker advises get 'many resumés' out

By HEATHER RUTA
Staff Writer

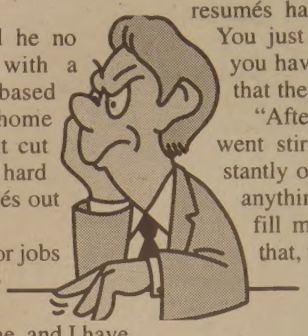
The hard work of finding a job has finally paid off.

Chris Froud, 22, of Welland, found himself without a job on Feb. 1 and wasn't prepared for the harsh reality.

"My biggest concern was money. Having bills to pay and payments to make became very tough. It was somewhat difficult to learn to adjust to a very tight budget, especially when you're used to being able to spend freely. I found it tough, but as long as you keep the frivolous spending restrained, it's really not that difficult."

Froud has been working for most of his life and said he hasn't been more frustrated. "I haven't been unemployed since I was in Grade 4. I can't stand sitting around and doing nothing, but for the whole month I was unemployed the house was never cleaner."

After Froud found he no longer had a job with a Niagara Region-based youth detention home when the government cut funding, he worked hard to get as many resumés out as he could.



"I applied mainly for jobs in the youth worker and security fields. Both are familiar to me, and I have quite a bit of experience in both. I had a few interviews within the last month and received a couple of job offers. My new job now is in the security field working at a Wal-Mart distributing plant in Stoney Creek."

"The most frustrating part is the initial waiting period after the resumés have been delivered. You just have to hope that you have the qualifications that they want."

"After losing my job I went stir-crazy. I was constantly on edge, looking for anything to do that would fill my time. Other than that, there were no major problems."

"Getting this new job made me realize that I missed working and wouldn't mind never being unemployed again."

"After my first paycheque from my new employer, I will at least be able to tread the water a little less furiously in order to keep my head above it. I should be back to my usual lifestyle within a month."

"I suggest to those who might find themselves in this same position, get as many resumés out as possible. The more often your name gets out, the better your chances are."

'I suggest to those who might find themselves in this same position, get as many resumés out as possible.'

Arslan unopposed

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Niagara College students have a new student representative on the Board of Governors, and no one voted for him.

Levent Arslan, a Business Administration — Operations Management (Co-op) program student, was the only one to submit an application for the post.

The nomination call was from Feb. 12 until noon on Feb. 23.

Since Arslan wasn't challenged by other applicants, there were no other candidates with which to hold an election, explained Helene Moscato, executive secretary to the board.

Arslan's one-year term begins in September and ends in August 2002. He will be replacing the current student representative, James Upper.

Association to show religious movies

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

One event might have been cancelled, but they are still soldiering on.

The Muslim Students Association (MSA) of Niagara College was planning to hold Islam Week, from March 12 to March 16, but the event was cancelled because of the college administration's decision.

Muhammed Faisal Ali, vice-president of MSA, said Sandy Fox, manager of ancillary services, viewed the proposed event as a "religious rally" and did not allow the MSA to hold it. What the college didn't realize is that Islam Week was not an event to change people's religion, but to inform people about Islam so it would be better understood in the Western world.

However, the event did not take place. The MSA is still holding activities at the college for members and non-members.

The MSA has reserved the Hamilton Room at the Welland campus on Fridays and Mondays between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to show religious Islamic movies. This started last Friday.

The same movies will be played for two weeks and will have separate viewing days for men and women.

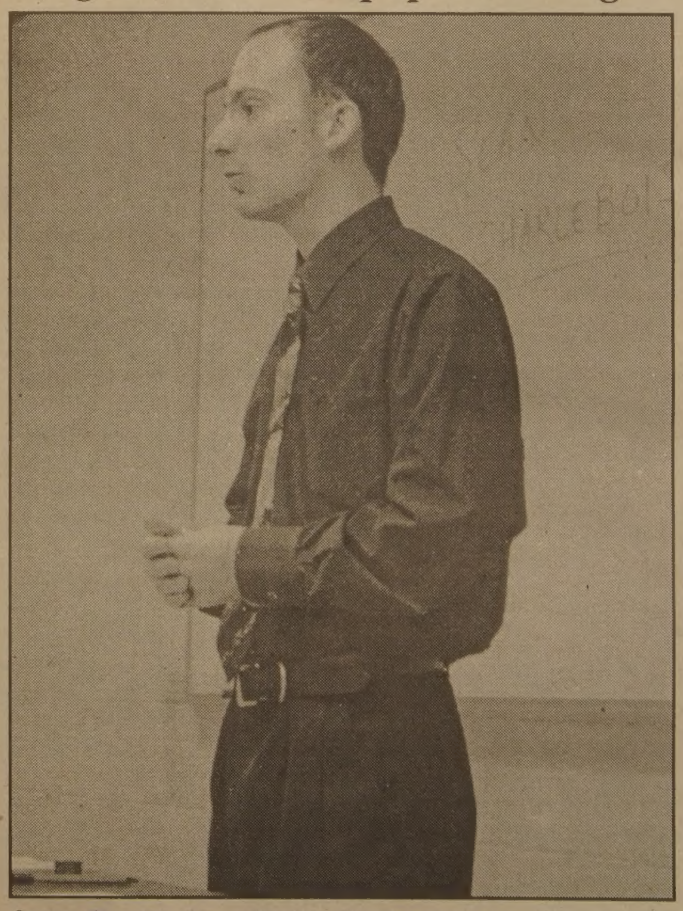
This event is organized by MSA's President Wassim Yassine.

The MSA has had its own prayer room on campus. The prayer room features an Islamic library, which will have books and cassettes on the religion.

"So far, we have about 60 books and a few cassettes in our library," said Muhammad Faisal Ali, MSA vice-president .

The MSA of Niagara College is also putting together a Web site that should be operational soon.

Magazine or newspaper writing



Sean Charlebois, editorial director for the *Downtowner Magazine*, spoke to second-year Journalism-Print students on March 12 about the relationship between editors and writers. Charlebois, 30, also discussed the difference between writing for newspapers and magazines. Charlebois received a bachelor of arts degree in intellectual history from McGill University in Montreal, Que.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Former publisher donates $10,000 to Niagara Community Foundation

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

The Niagara Community Foundation has started its first donor-advised program.

The public foundation, established in November, has created the Anita Skinner Fund. Skinner, publisher of The Downtowner, a city/regional magazine, won the Casino Niagara Cares Community Contribution Award for 2000, and designated the Niagara Community Foundation to be the recipient of the $10,000 award.

Liz Palmieri, executive director of the Niagara Community Foundation, said the donor fund would be held in perpetuity. The fund will earn interest over the years, and a portion of the interest earned will be donated each year to one or more charities around the region. Skinner will meet with the foundation annually to advise which charities to target.

One of the reasons she chose the foundation was because she was "able to be involved with the process" of selecting where the money will go, Skinner says.

The decision of designating the money was "very difficult," she says, "but I think the fact it was a regional foundation was a big part of it."

"We were very pleased (with her selection). We are very honoured to have been chosen by Ms. Skinner," Palmieri says.

Skinner says she doesn't yet know which charities she will select to benefit from the fund, but "being able to defer that decision" was one of the reasons she selected the foundation.

"I know I want it to be regional in nature," she says.

Skinner attributes her support for the foundation to its care of the community's future.

Despite receiving its first donation, Palmieri says the foundation "just developing our granting program."

Information on how to donate to the foundation can be found on its Web site, www.niagaracommunityfoundation.org.

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YOUR HEALTH

Overactive thyroid causes complications

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

Lesley Patterson says she thought she was going crazy. Her heart was racing and she was suffering from depression and violent mood swings.

Patterson, 25, of St. Catharines, says she has been "struggling" against these problems for the past three years.

"I thought I was fat and lazy. My ex-boyfriend told me I was crazy. I would yell at him for no reason, and even though I was barely eating, I couldn't lose any weight."

Finally, last summer, Patterson sought help from her family physician. "I went to my doctor and after explaining my problems to him he said he thought it was my thyroid."

Patterson had blood taken and the tests proved she had a slightly over-active thyroid. Her doctor said her T3 and T4 hormones were elevated, a sign she had an overactive thyroid gland. Her doctor sent her to a specialist who explained her condition in greater detail.

Patterson says she was told her condition was responsible for her depression and her weight gain. Her thyroid gland, which is located in the centre of the throat just above the clavicle, was affecting her physically and psychologically. Her condition, however, was not advanced enough to merit immediate treatment. She says she was told to have periodic blood tests to monitor her levels, and when they became extremely elevated something would have to be done.

"The specialist said although my hormone levels were not too high, they would probably get worse over time."

Within five months the specialist's prediction played out.

Patterson began having panic attacks.

"My heart would start racing until it felt like it was going to explode out of my chest. It wouldn't stop for half an hour."

The thyroid gland is an important part of the endocrine system. It secretes three hormones: thyroxin or T4, triiodothyronine or T3, and calcitonin. These hormones control body metabolism and regulate calcium balance. Overproduction of these hormones is called hyperthyroidism; underproduction is called hypothyroidism.

Patterson's hyperthyroidism is called Grave's disease. Its causes are unknown, and therefore there is no method of prevention.

The symptoms include protruding eyes, weight loss, increased appetite, restlessness, heat intolerance, increased sweating, fatigue, muscle cramps, tremors, increased bowel movements, irregular menstruation and goiter (lumps on the thyroid gland).

On her return visit to her endocrinologist, Patterson learned her hormone levels had risen dramatically.

"My specialist told me my thyroid would probably stop working within a year and I needed to decide on a course of treatment now."

There are three possible treatments: medication, radioactive iodine or surgery.

The purpose of the treatments is to control the over-activity of the thyroid gland. Beta-blockers are used to control the anxiety and rapid heart rate until the hyperthyroidism is brought under control.

Patterson has chosen the iodine treatment.

"The specialist says the iodine is the best bet for me because I'm so young. He says I can't take the medication because I have asthma, and the surgery is always a last resort."

Patterson will undergo the iodine treatment over two days at McMaster University Hospital in Hamilton. It will take between three and six months before the iodine treatment will have its full effect, warns Patterson. "Even then I will have to take pills for the rest of my life."

The pills Patterson will take will be used to combat hypothyroidism. "Basically they are to replace the hormones my thyroid should be producing but can't anymore."

The long-term prognosis for people with Grave's disease is very good. There are only a few possible complications brought about by the medication. A person can develop protruding eyes and can be at risk for congestive heart failure, rapid heart rate and atrial fibrillation. These possible complications make it important for people with the disease to undergo lifelong observation by a health-care professional.

LESLEY PATTERSON

Patterson sighs she is "relieved" to have found out she isn't crazy and that there is hope for her in the near future.

She exclaims, "I can't wait to get rid of the damn problem and get on with my life."

Vegetarian 'happy' to support animal rights

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

It's a meatless life.

The taunting aroma of pepperoni on pizza, bacon with eggs, and meatballs with spaghetti has no effect on Tanya-Dawn Vincer.

Vincer, 19, of Sundridge, Ont., is a student of the Law Clerk program at Niagara's Welland campus. Vincer has been a vegetarian since she was 14.

"I became a vegetarian because I am very much against animal cruelty," she says. "I'm at a point in my life where I find it impossible to consume anything that was living."

Vincer says her parents support her decision. "In the beginning they thought it was just a phase, but soon realized it was something I felt strongly about and supported me completely."

There are different types of vegetarian diets. A person on a lacto-ovo-vegetarian diet avoids meat, poultry and fish. One on a lacto-vegetarian diet avoids meat, poultry, fish, and eggs. One on a ovo-vegetarian diet avoids meat, poultry, fish, milk and milk products, and one on a vegan diet avoids all foods of animal origin.

Ethical vegetarians reject meat because they believe no animal lives should be taken to satisfy human appetites. Certain religions, mainly Hinduism, discourage the consumption of meat.

Vincer is a lacto-ovo-vegetarian. She says that she has never considered being a vegan, and says, "I feel eating dairy is justified because the cows aren't slaughtered for the purpose of milk, and eggs that we eat were never fertilized."

"I have cravings for meat, but I've never given into the temptation. I feel too strongly about it," she says.

One concern with a vegetarian diet is the loss of major nutrients the body needs to function properly.

Nutrients that are lost when someone is on a vegetarian diet include protein, calcium, iron, Vitamin B12, Vitamin D, zinc and omega-3 fatty acid.

Vincer says, "Sometimes I take iron supplements." When someone is on a vegetarian diet, vitamin supplements are necessary to ensure the body is getting the nutrients it needs.

Vincer says that of all the types of meat, she misses bacon "because of the smell" and McDonald's cheeseburgers because "they were my favourite."

When asked if she thought everyone should be vegetarians, she says, "Lately I have, because of the recent mad cow, and foot and mouth diseases."

Overall, Vincer says she is "happy" with her decision to become a vegetarian "because I feel like I'm making my contribution to support animal rights."

Tanya-Dawn Vincer, 19, smiles for the camera as she cuts up a cucumber to eat.

Photo by Terri Lynn LeBlanc

Melanoma cause of woman's lifetime visual impairment

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

Eyes are the windows to the soul.

Imagine not being able to see out of one eye because of intraocular melanoma, cancer of the eye.

Melanoma is cancer that arises in melanocytes, the cells that produce melanin, a pigment that gives skin, hair and eyes their colour and allows tanning.

Melanocytes are cells in the epidermal layer (the protective layer) of the skin that produce the black or dark brown pigment melanin. Melanocytes are found in many parts of the eye, including the retina (the black of the eye), the iris (the coloured part) and the conjunctiva (the pink inside lining of the eyelids).

Most melanomas develop just below the skin's surface at the site of an existing mole. If not removed, melanoma cells can travel to other parts of the body and destroy vital organs.

The highest incidence of ocular melanoma is in fair-skinned Caucasian people with light eye colours such as blue, gray and green. Exposure to the sun is a contributing factor with ocular melanoma.

Kathleen Walsh, 67, of Ajax, Ont., says she was in her thirties when her eye started to go bad.

"I was always nearsighted," she says, "but it kept on getting worse."

"I went blind and couldn't see anything out of it," she says. "There was a tumor behind the eye, and they (the doctors) removed the eye and replaced it with a plastic one." Walsh says she has had a plastic eye for about 36 years.

She says she can't see out of the eye, but she's been "used to not seeing out of it for years."

People with atypical mole syndrome have an increased possibility of having moles in the back of their eyes and an increased risk of ocular melanoma.

There are different types of melanomas and lesions that can appear behind the eye.

An enlarging pigmented lesion (freckles, old age spots, and moles) is likely to be malignant, whereas one that does not change is probably a mole.

Advanced lesions often result in partial vision loss, bleeding into the eye, or detachment from the retina (black of the eye).

Small melanomas in the eye can be treated with laser therapy, which allows vision to be preserved in about two-thirds of cases. Special dyes are injected into the bloodstream. The dyes are taken up by the cancer cells and sensitize them to the effects of the laser beams.

Medium melanomas are treated with different, highly specialized forms of radiation therapy that allow the eye to be saved, but vision after this treatment is impaired.

Large melanomas are best treated by complete surgical removal of the eye in an operation called enucleation. The patient is fitted with an artificial eye that appears realistic.

The primary cause of melanoma is damage to the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) 05of melanocytes by ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. Melanin absorbs UV radiation, thus protecting DNA cells. When the eye exposed to too much sun, damage can result.

YOUR HEALTH

Surgery will relieve symptoms of Crohn's disease

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

A university student is facing surgery in his continuing battle with Crohn's disease.

Jeff Warford, 21, of, Oshawa, Ont., is a fourth-year Co-op accounting student at Brock University, in St. Catharines.

Warford was diagnosed with Crohn's disease when he was 16.

Crohn's disease is an inflammatory bowel disease that is also the cause of ulcerative colitis. There is no known cause for either.

Crohn's disease involves the body's digestive system from the mouth to the anus. The entire thickness of the bowel wall, from the inner layers to the outer lining, is inflamed. Ulcerative colitis is mainly found in the anus. The inner lining of the ileum, which is the last 10 feet of the small intestine, becomes inflamed and the surface of the inner lining becomes raw and bleeds easily.

Crohn's disease is more complicated than ulcerative colitis. Crohn's can be patchy, meaning there can be parts of the disease throughout the intestines, esophagus and rectum, whereas colitis is in one area, mainly the anus.

Warford recently found out that he has to undergo surgery, as part of his large intestine is severely inflamed.

He says, "In early January, I was getting lower abdominal pains."

His doctor put him on prednisone, a steroid that helps control the inflammation.

He has had two colonoscopys, an ultrasound, and a barium x-ray.

The doctor was unable to get the colonscopies through his intestine because part of the intestine was "all the way closed," he says. "They couldn't distinguish where the opening was. The intestine was too inflamed."

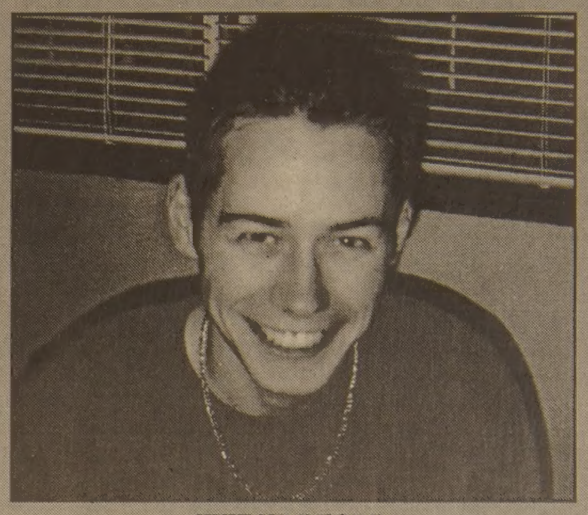
He says he didn't think that he would need surgery at such a young age. "At first I was scared," he says, "but now I'm not. I've known about the surgery for six weeks."

When asked if he thought he would have to undergo surgery again, he says, "Yes, it's highly possible, although I may just have to treat irritations with medication."

The surgery will be "exploratory," meaning the doctors aren't sure how much of the intestine is inflamed, and they don't know how much of the intestine will need to be cut.

The incision will be made below his belly button. The inflammation will be removed and the two healthy ends of the intestine will be rejoined.

The surgery will relieve him of the symptoms he's having, but it is not a cure for the disease.

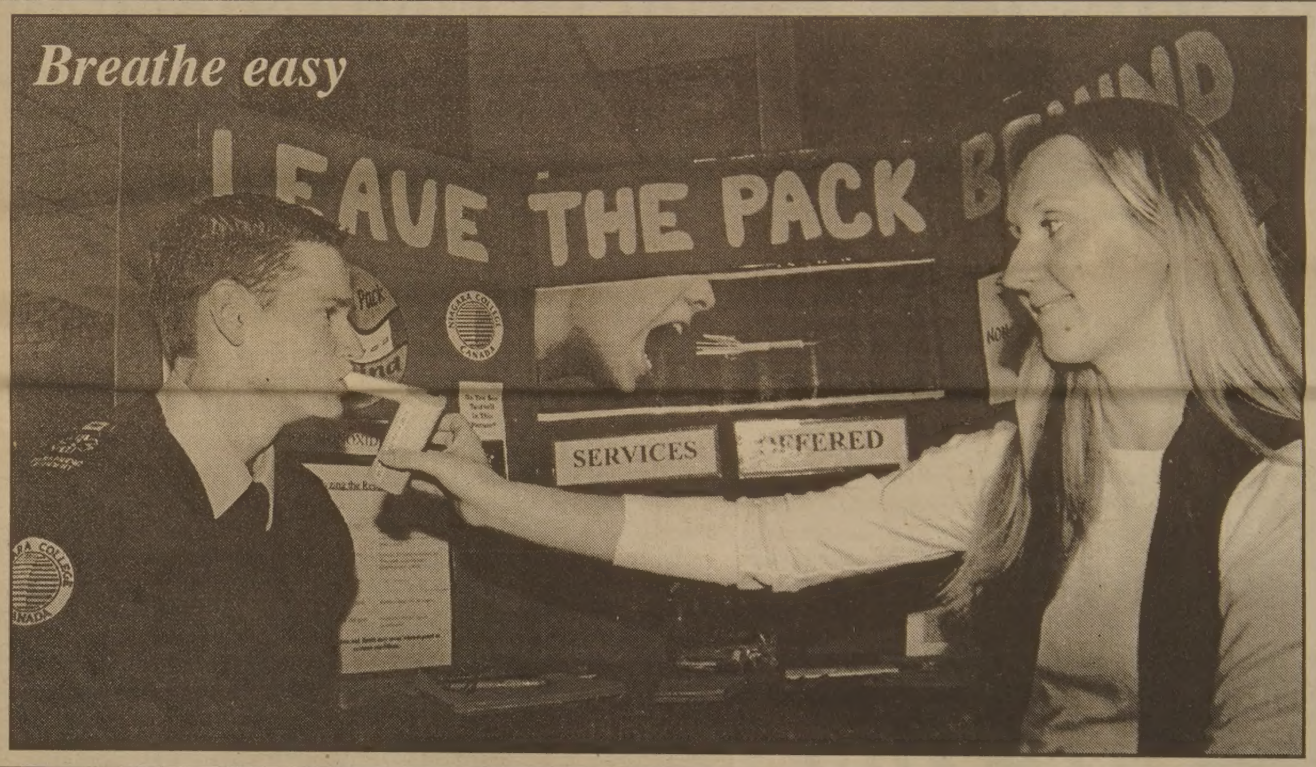


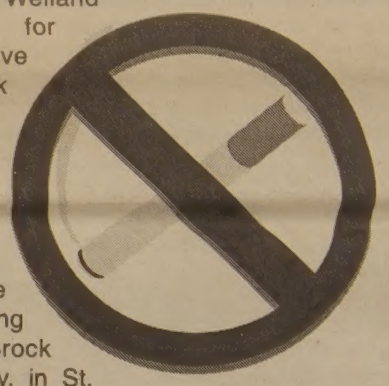
JEFF WARFORD

Warford says, after receiving the surgery, he thinks overall he is going to feel better.

Surgery date is set for April 10.

Breathe easy





Paramedic program student Craig Bothwell and Public Relations (Post-graduate) student Joanne Klodnicki take time to show students the hazards of cigarette smoking while manning a display at the Welland campus for the Leave the Pack Behind program.

Niagara College is working with Brock University, in St. Catharines, on the research program that provides support for smokers who want to quit. Though finished for the term, the program will resume in September.

Photo by Ryan McLaughlin

Rack 'n' Roll

Tony Taranto, 23, of Welland, displays his rack breaking skills at Rack & Roll Billiards. The 'Rack', as it is commonly referred, is a popular place to shoot some pool, play some darts or just to unwind. Rack 'n' Roll is at 541 Niagara St.

Photo by Ryan McLaughlin

Time to get those teeth checked

It's a busy time of year for faculty and students at Niagara College dental area on the third floor of the Simcoe building of the Welland campus. Local residents can make appointments by telephoning 735-2211 ext. 7746.

Photo by Dan D'Amico

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Niagara tourism grads enter workforce

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

Niagara College students of the Tourism Careers for Youth (TCY) program have spread their wings to fly and are leaving the learning nest behind.

Fourteen students of the three-week program graduated on March 16 and another 17 are to graduate on March 23.

The TCY program is an enhanced, entry-level pre-employment program available for students who are out of school, unemployed, between the ages of 18 and 29 and not receiving Employment Insurance or Workplace Safety and Insurance Board benefits.

The program is funded by Human Resources Canada and is provided at no charge to youth participants. Niagara College, community partners and employers recruit and select the participants for the program.

Niagara College provides 90 hours (three weeks) of classroom training in skills for the tourism industry, at no cost to the trainee.

The employer hires the participant for up to six months and provides on-the-job training using Ontario Tourism Education Corp. funds.

Youth participants receive $150 per week stipend during the classroom sessions and employers reduce training costs through wage subsidies for the participants who qualify.

Erin Gorman, one of the graduates, says, "It was wonderful, very informative. I liked all of the people and the co-ordinators were very helpful. I learned a lot about how tourism is progressing."

The program leaves students with certificate training, WHIMIS training, and customer service skills for jobs in bartending, reservation sales agent, professional cooking, front desk agent, tourism visitor information counsellor, a local tour guide and many more occupations.

"Very informative. It increased my confidence in finding a job," says Kara Sloan, TCY graduate. "Really helped to develop professional skills. I just really appreciate the chance to get exposure to this program.

Niagara College's March 17 graduates of the Tourism Careers for Youth program.

Photo by Kandis Thorsby

Niagara student wins gold medal in sledgehockey

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer

He's athletic and he's got the gold to prove it.

Jodie St. John, 20, of Bethany, Ont., is in the Computer Programmer Analyst (Co-op) program at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Asked why he chose his program, he says, "I like computers and I like to learn more about them. I would like to learn more about programming." He says he wants to find a job in his field after graduation.

"I like sports. It interests me, watching and playing sports. I like playing sledgehockey and working out at the gym. I like to keep in shape and it makes me feel better."

He says he has been playing sledgehockey for "nine or 10 years. I love it because it gives me the opportunity to play hockey." He says his mom signed him up for it.

"I travel all over Ontario to Kitchener, Hamilton, Buffalo, N.Y. and Mississauga."

St. John has cerebral palsy. He says he has had a disability "all my life." He cannot skate the "regular way" and that's why he plays sledgehockey, a sport designed for disabled individuals.

The participants sit down on a sledge. The sledge has skate blades on the bottom of it. The player is given two miniature wooden sticks with metal picks in them. The picks assist the player in moving around the ice.

Playing for the St. Catharines Niagara Thunderblades, St. John says he likes sledgehockey because "it gives me a chance to play other teams." It's challenging "because you have to know a lot about hockey."

He says his favourite National Hockey League team is the Toronto Maple Leafs.

As for other activities he enjoys, "I do track and field and I would like to get back into archery." He's been doing track and field track for disabled individuals for three years and ". . . off and on all my life. I've won many track meets."

In March 2000, he competed in the Windsor Indoor Classic Games, winning four gold medals. The events were the 60-, 200- and 400-metre races and shot-put. He competed in the National Track Meet in Edmonton last July, winning five gold medals, one in each of the 100-, 200- and 400-metre races as well as shot-put and discus.

St. John's interests extend beyond the athletic too, to family and music.

"I've got three sisters: one older sister and two younger sisters." They are Juwain, Jenny and Sarah. He says he has a "good" relationship with them. "Having sisters is a good experience because you learn from them."

Asked his favourite type of music, he says, "I like country because I was brought up listening to country." He says his mom listens to it all the time.

"You walk in the house and there is country music playing all the time. I like Garth Brooks because I like his songs." He says his favourite Garth Brooks song is *We Shall Be Free*.

As for his best and his worst qualities, "I like to socialize because I like talking to people. I am loud, and when I get hyper I am louder than usual."

He says in five years, "I see myself having a job and living on my own in a big apartment."

"I hope I will be a programmer for a large computer company and . . . make a medium-sized salary.

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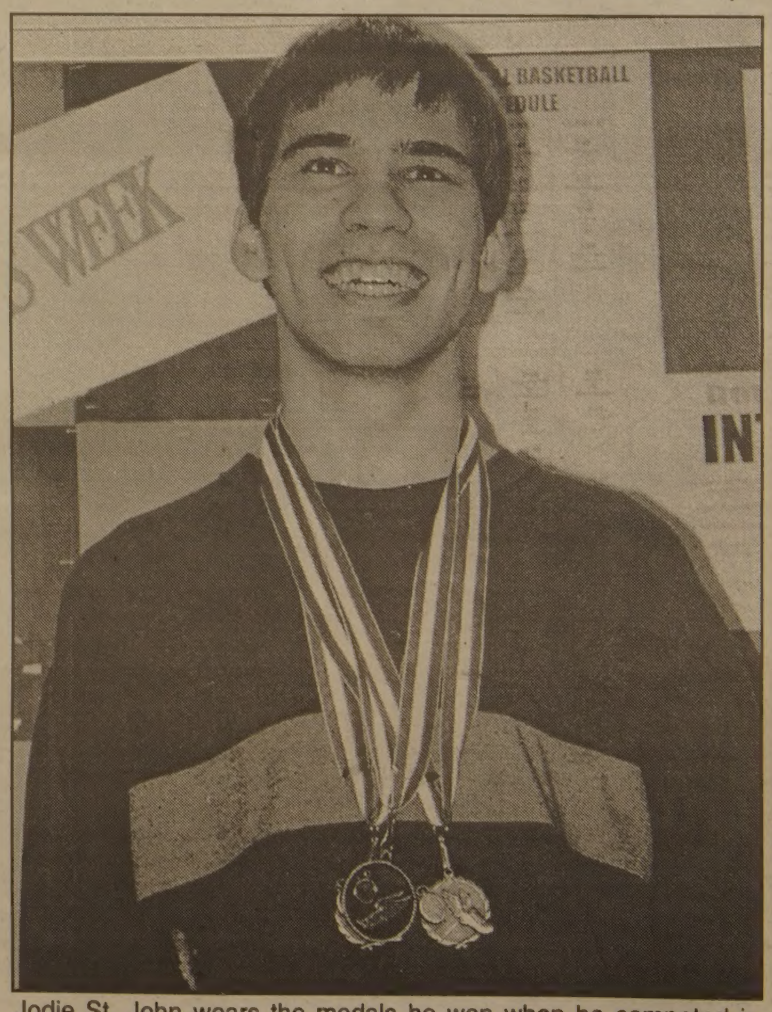


Jodie St. John wears the medals he won when he competed in track meets for the disabled.

Photo by Rachel Montour

POLITICAL DAY

Day shifts from treasurer to party leader

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

He is among the most influential men in Canadian politics.

He critiques the prime minister and the federal government by leading the Official Opposition in the House of Commons in Ottawa.

Stockwell Day, the new Canadian Alliance leader, talked to the *Niagara News* through an e-mail interview Wednesday about his career, the party's 10-year goals and his family.

Day, who was born in Barrie, Ont., has lived and worked in most regions of the country, including Quebec, Ontario, Northwest Territories, Alberta, British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

He graduated from Westmount High School in Montreal, Que. Day attended the University of Victoria, in Victoria, B.C., but didn't graduate. Instead, he left with Valorie, his wife for "30 wonderful years."

His journey in politics began in the early 1980s when he ran to be a voting delegate at the provincial Progressive Conservative convention in Alberta, but was unsuccessful. He was elected in 1986 for the constituency of Red Deer North and in 1997 became Alberta's treasurer.

"I was always interested in politics," says Day. Entering politics was the turning point in his career.

In 2000, Day made the transition from provincial to federal politics, by becoming the new leader of the former Reform Party, now named the Canadian Alliance. He was elected on July 8, 2000.

Regarding the transition from provincial to federal government, Day says, "I saw a challenge to lead a new party into a new century and bring about change in Canadian politics."

Now the leader of a national party, he says, "I am both honoured and privileged to lead the Canadian Alliance and to work with such an outstanding team of MPs (Members of Parliament), dedicated volunteers and staff."

His family wasn't left out of the decision on his political transition.

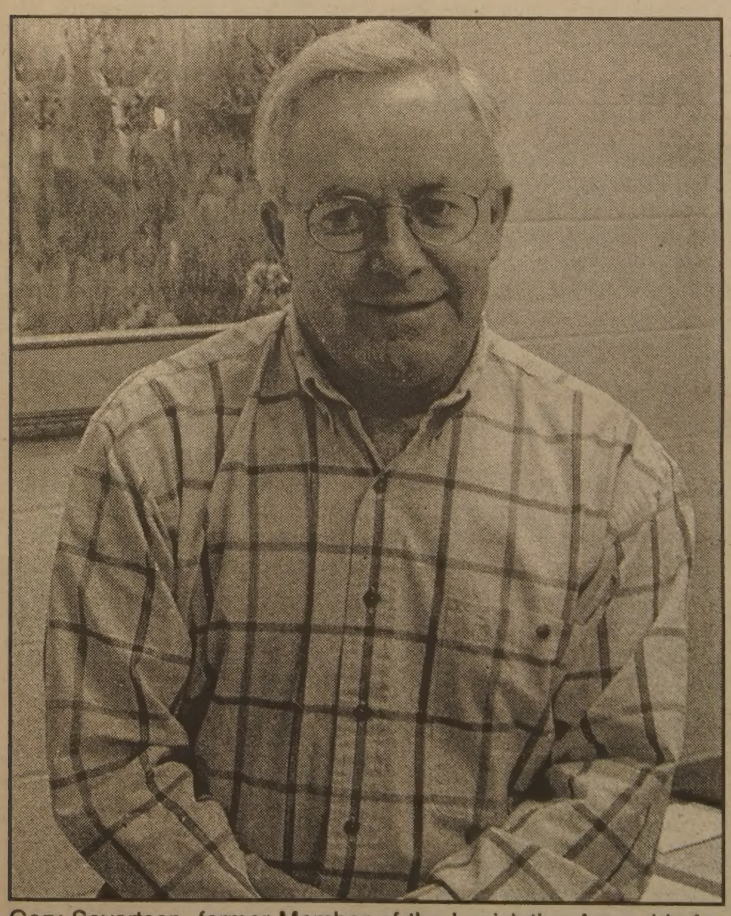
Day says, "The decision to move into federal politics was a family decision that was supported by everyone. It has been fun in some ways and challenging in others."

The time divided between Ottawa and home is easier since Day's three sons are grown. "We keep in close touch with them. I am very fortunate that Val is with me most of the time."

The Reform Party began in Alberta under the leadership of Preston Manning in the 1980s. In 1997, the Reform Party became the Official Opposition in the House of Commons, replacing the Bloc Quebecois in its role from the previous election in 1993.

Day's provincial political experience consists of senior roles in the Alberta Legislature. They include the chief whip, government House leader, minister of social services, minister of labour, and from 1997 to 2000, he was the provincial treasurer, also known as the finance minister.

"Every portfolio he took on" was run effectively, says Gary Severtson, in a telephone interview with *Niagara News*.



Gary Severtson, former Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Innisfail-Sylvan Lake constituency, worked with Stockwell Day for 12 years. Day was elected to the Alberta Legislature two years before Severtson.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

Severtson, a former Member of Legislative Assembly for the Innisfail-Sylvan Lake constituency, says, "He laid it out so everybody could understand. There was no fudging of numbers and he ran a tight ship."

These experiences have given Day experience in "the administration of government that will prepare me when our party becomes the next federal government."

"I hope my legacy is a balanced budget and economic prosperity for Alberta, along with an example of listening to and acting in the best interest of the public," says Day.

Severtson says Day's legacy to the province is as the "last leader in tax reform" as provincial treasurer. Day introduced the flat tax reduction, which took effect beginning this year.

The Single Rate Tax, introduced by Day, cut taxes for all Albertans and removed low-income earners from the tax polls altogether. As well, there was tax equalization for single-income families.

Day commented on the success of Alberta's flat tax. "The Canadian Alliance has proposed a fair tax plan, similar to that of Alberta, that will see low-income Canadians who earn less than $26,000 a year pay no taxes at all. The tax plan I was able to put in place in Alberta is a single rate tax of 10 per cent and it is working well."

With Alberta's fiscal house in order, "Stock played a role by making a switch in the way government operates spending. We are the first government (in Canada) to pay down the debt with our surplus," says Severtson.

With the implementation of the Debt Elimination Act, along with the introduction of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the Alberta government became the first in Canada to eliminate its net debt and increase credit rating.

Severtson worked with Day for 12 years and describes him as a "person of character." He has "strong views" on issues yet is open enough so he can hear other people's views. Day has a "strong character, with compassion to support other people and their viewpoints."

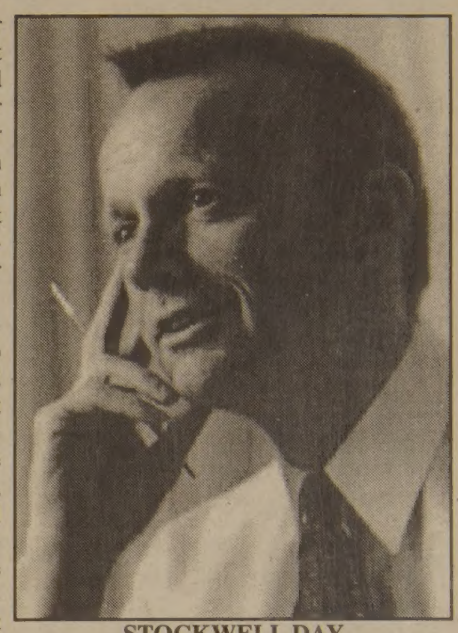
"We always got along," says Severtson. "We didn't always agree on issues, (but) we listened to each other and sometimes I generally agreed with him on most issues and he agreed with me."

"I listen to and respect the wishes and the will of our members and our caucus," says Day, when asked what makes him "unique" from other party leaders.

Severtson describes Day's personality as being "energetic, thoughtful and (he) has a general concern for people." Day agrees by saying, "I am a very outgoing person who loves to be around people."

Flat taxes would be on Day's agenda if he were elected prime minister. He says, "I would initiate broad-based tax relief for all Canadians to ensure that individual taxpayers and families keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets. The Canadian Alliance would bring in parliamentary reforms that would lead to a new appreciation and respect for democracy."

Regarding any new legislation he would like to see, Day says, "I would like to see legislation that will give Canadians broad-based tax relief." On the future of Canadian taxes, Days says, "I am hopeful that with the federal surplus, we can provide Canadians with substantive tax reductions and put more money into their pockets."



STOCKWELL DAY
Photo: www.canadianalliance.ca

Day predicts the Canadian economy in 10 years to be carefully balanced between spending and paying off the debt "without compromising our international reputation and economic good standing. If we are able to have in place the principles of economic freedom endorsed by the Canadian Alliance, our economy will stay vibrant."

Regarding the gun control law put in place by the Liberals, Day says, "The Canadian Alliance does not believe that the current gun control law will curb the criminal use of firearms, which is the biggest gun-related problem this country has. We would repeal this law and replace it with one that penalizes the criminals and not law-abiding citizens."

The No. 1 achievement the Canadian Alliance would like to accomplish within the next 10 years is "to become (the) government."

Day says he will run for prime minister in the next election. "I am committed to leading this party into the next election, should it be the wish of the majority of our members. Should the Canadian public elect us as the next government, I will be honoured to be prime minister."

Since Day is "50 years young," he responded to the question of retiring by saying, "I will retire when I feel I have accomplished what I set out to do." As leader of the opposition, Day says he would like to "demonstrate to Canadians that we are the real alternative to the existing government that offers true respect for democracy and hope for the future."

Before his life in politics, Day was an auctioneer and he worked with troubled teens, an experience he called the "turning point" in his life. "That is when I decided that I wanted to help those in need."

When he is not critiquing the prime minister and his cabinet members, Day says he "enjoys" kayaking, hiking, skiing and in-line skating.

After Day retires, he will spend more time with his family, consisting of Day's three sons Logan, 28, Luke, 26, and Ben, 25. Ben and Karen have four children, one girl and three boys, under six years of age. Logan and his wife, Julianna, have a baby girl, born this past February.

With the lack of support for the Progressive Conservatives (PC) party and the New Democratic Party (NDP), Day says, "I believe Canadians want a change from traditional parties. That is one of the reasons the Canadian Alliance increased in popular support in this past election and why our party continues to grow on a daily basis."

If the Tories and the Canadian Alliance plan to unite, Day says the party membership will decide the question of leadership, and a vote will be held at a convention.

Regarding the 2000 federal election, Severtson says the election "was a good lesson" for Day. Severtson explains the media scene at the federal level is a lot different from the one at the provincial level.

Commenting on the media's attitude at the federal level of politics, Day says, "I don't see a difference other than there is a larger group of journalists at the national level than the provincial level." Commenting on media coverage provincially and federally, Day says, "From what I have seen, it is about the same."

Severtson says, "No doubt the Alliance had trouble. I think he will learn from that the next time around."

Severtson says that Day "is very quick on his feet" in Question Period. He will "be good in Parliament. With different issues, he will show capabilities, he will show himself well and he will learn from some lessons as well."

The challenges facing Day are that he "has to try and get Eastern voters to understand what his message of fiscal plans are, which are good solid plans for the country."

"The federal government must get its fiscal house in order," says Severtson, pointing out $40 billion is owed "just on debt interest."

ENTERTAINMENT

Don't waste your time on 15 Minutes

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

Director John Herzfeld's new film, 15 Minutes, trades substance for style. In fact, it rolls substance into a little ball and kicks it to the curb, a technique that is a pity. The movie could have used some realism and genuine emotion.

Two Eastern European lowlifes, Emil (Karel Roden) and Oleg (Oleg Taktarov), come to America to get money from an old friend and his wife. Oleg is obsessed with American movies and tapes Emil committing a murder with a stolen digital video camera. What they don't count on is a witness named Daphne (Vera Farmiga) running to the cops to tattle on them. Pretty soon it's up to celebrity cop Eddie (Robert DeNiro) and rookie fire marshal Jordy (Ed Burns) to save the day by catching that bad Euro-trash.

The killers have other plans though: to murder half the people in New York and videotape their deaths! Sell the tapes to tabloid TV and claim insanity if arrested and convicted for their crimes! Corrupt tabloid journalist Robert Hawkins (Kelsey Grammer), airs a tape of the killers murdering a famous New Yorker, causing you, the viewer of 15 Minutes, to wonder this: Is it legal to purchase stories from murderers, considering the Son of Sam law? Is it legal to air a death on television if it's not a death resulting from war or an act of terrorism? Wouldn't you technically be an accessory to a homicide if you purposefully withheld key evidence from the police, then aired it on live television?

There are other questions raised while watching this film: Is it possible to utter death threats in front of a gaggle of police officers and news reporters and have nobody notice what you've just said? Does Grammer want to be a movie star so badly he'll do roles like this? And how much jurisdiction does a fire marshal have within the New York Police Department?

On the other hand, Kenneth Lonergan's new film, You Can Count On Me, substitutes substance for style, a technique that is not a bad choice, considering low-key family dramas don't need flashy camera angles or special effects.

The movie tells the story of Sammy Prescott (Laura Linney), a single mother raising an eight-year-old son, Rudy (Rory Culkin). She's the loans officer at a local bank, is dating a boring guy named Bob (Jon Tenney) and has to deal with her new, incompetent manager Brian (Matthew Broderick). Then her younger brother Terry (Mark Ruffalo) comes home after a long, unexplained absence.

Sammy is overjoyed to see her brother, believing he's come home to visit. He's not. He's there because he needs money, having spent a good chunk of the past year in a prison in Florida. Sammy loves him anyway, Rudy looks up to him like a father, and mother and son must learn to deal with a guy they're both crazy about but can't depend on.

The strength of You Can Count On Me is that it isn't manipulative in the slightest. The characters speak and behave like real people, unlike the walking screenwriter's index cards in 15 Minutes. There's a reason You Can Count On Me is nominated for Best Actress and Best Original Screenplay at this year's Academy Awards, and there's a reason 15 Minutes will be remembered as nothing but a footnote in Robert DeNiro's career.

Movie dwells in the realm of Satan's chosen one

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

"A man born of incest will become Satan and the world as we know it will be no more."

Those are the words of the 17th Book of Deuteronomy and the main focus of a newly released video, Lost Souls.

Winona Ryder and Ben Chaplin star in this Satanic cross between The Exorcist and Stigmata. Although the movie does not deal with the same aspects of Stigmata, it does dwell in the realm of Satan's chosen one.

During a failed exorcism attempt on a narcissistic psychopath, Satan looks to possess the body of a different individual. Rider's character (Maya Larkin), who also had the opportunity to be possessed by the devil, searches for Satan's next victim.

With the aid of a priest and the psychopath's secret writings, Rider discovers the identity of the chosen one. She does so by matching the criteria. The victim must be born of incest, must have a certain blood type and must have his parents fall victim to murder.

Unfortunately for Peter Kelson (Chaplin) he totally fits the bill, yet chooses not to face reality.

Lost Souls contains everything one could ask for in a movie that deals with the battle between good and evil. It evokes tremendous terror because of the disturbing images and unforgettable exorcism.

Although most Satanic-thriller fans may find that Lost Souls is simply a copy of many prior efforts, it certainly does not disappoint. It is short on action and gore, yet holds a steady course with its plot and main idea. As usual, Ryder looks pale and lifeless in her role as Chaplin's saviour. You thought she looked anorexic in Girl Interrupted? You haven't seen anything yet.

Lost Souls' cinematography and camerawork suit the story and its setting. The colours are absent and the voices are creepy. In essence, the movie is a toned-down version of The Exorcist. I give it two and a half out of five stars.

15 Minutes leaves the attentive viewer hanging but entertained

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Camaraderie, media manipulation, ethically impotent news and a star cast give 15 Minutes fame.

The story is a gritty coming-to-America tale of a Czech, Emil (Karel Roden), and a Russian, Oleg (Oleg Taktarov), who arrive in the country to collect money owed to them. After stealing a video camera, they begin filming their adventures, which happens to be a brutal killing spree, in hopes of milking the entertainment value for fame and fortune and making the Great American Movie.

Hot on their heals is the New York Police Department's darling cop, Eddie Flemming, played by the always-brilliant Robert De Niro, and arson investigator Jordy Warsaw, a character that Edward Burns seems to have no difficulty pulling off.

The movie becomes an adrenaline-infused cat-and-mouse game all caught on the killer's digital video camera. Constantly seeking more fame and displaying more insanity, the two wannabe-famous murders eventually use the media and some sketchy legalities to make their play for judicial immunity, and Hollywood.

The film, from director John Herzfeld, has a much better concept than what plays out on screen. The idea behind the film is great, and it truly does say something about our reality TV culture, yet there are some gaps in its details that leave the attentive viewer hanging. However, it is not short on entertainment, and as the movie's two hours of story proves, we don't care about the details. We just want gore.

12 bands compete for first place at the 2001 Battle of the Bands

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

The music fills your ears. The beat takes control of the blood in your veins. The battle of the bands has begun.

On March 19, the 2001 Battle of the Bands wreaked its havoc on students' ears and sleep. Twelve bands each played three songs, enticing the crowd with a range of musically talented individuals.

The bands were judged on stage presence, creativity, originality, songwriting ability, professionalism and overall impression.

Unique genres of music were apparent as opening act Levee, consisting of acoustic guitars and powerful female vocals in beautiful soliloquies and lullaby-like songs, was followed by the band Solution. This is a death metal, slipknot-sounding band with energetic members.

Sick Twisted Farmers, a six-man band filled with incredible harmonics, had the crowd laughing hysterically at their humorous lyrics about poo brushes and chickens.

Fuzz Bug, a three-man band and the second place winners, greeted the crowd with upbeat Weezer-sounding music.

The first place winners, Screaming Black Cadillacs, will be sent on to the regional finals at McMaster University, in Hamilton. Their entry fee will be paid by the After Hours Student Administrative Council. They also got $500 and their entry fee paid for the National Finals at Lee's Palace in Toronto.

See the Battle of the Bands photo gallery at www.niagara-news.com

Third-place Battle of the Bands winners, the Sick Twisted Farmers, entertaining the crowds with their humorous songs. See additional photos on page 28.

Photo by Kandis Thorsby

ENTERTAINMENT

Staggered Crossing on road to success

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

From open mic gigs to cross country big, Staggered Crossing is on the four-lane highway to success.

Starting as a glorified jam in various open-mic bars, the Toronto band has spent the last four years tuning and re-tuning to get to where the members want to be.

With the recent release of its self-titled album, a non-stop tour, and a much-played video on Canadian television, the five-piece band has taken its whirlwind of successes and used it to pull in fans and gigs alike.

"I've certainly noticed a recognition increase," said the band's guitarist, Bruce Adamson.

He added, "It's a lot of fun to really get an opportunity to move outside of Toronto a bit and play around the country."

Adamson said that the push for the new album and its recent success are nice because the success allows them to finally be a "full-time band."

With the album's single, *Further Again*, filling the radio waves, and its video getting play on MuchMusic, the band is realizing what all Canadian bands eventually do: the ceiling to their success is a big, unguarded border directly to the south. With the exception of some Canadian musical icons, namely the Tragically Hip and 54-40, very few bands attain anything more than marginal success tapping into the U.S. market.

Julian Taylor, vocalist for the band, said, they're "trying to get the record released there (the U.S.)," adding, "It's the only way, then, to be just a working band."

Taylor, who writes "75 to 80 per cent" of the band's songs, said, "It's hard work, and all that you can hope is that it will pay off."

With music pirating machine Napster making headlines daily, a question the band is faced with is whether Napster will affect them or the distribution of their music.

Jeremy Elliott, drummer of the band said, "Personally, I believe we will all tell our children about how Napster was free and they won't believe it."

He added, "I think it's brilliant. I've probably heard more music this year as a result, and I've probably bought more music. I know that's not the case for everyone but eventually it will be regulated. But at the same time, piracy will always be ahead of any steps there are to control it."

Elliott said that Napster is "a great way for people to explore (music) and expand and take control of their listening . . . that's an amazing thing."

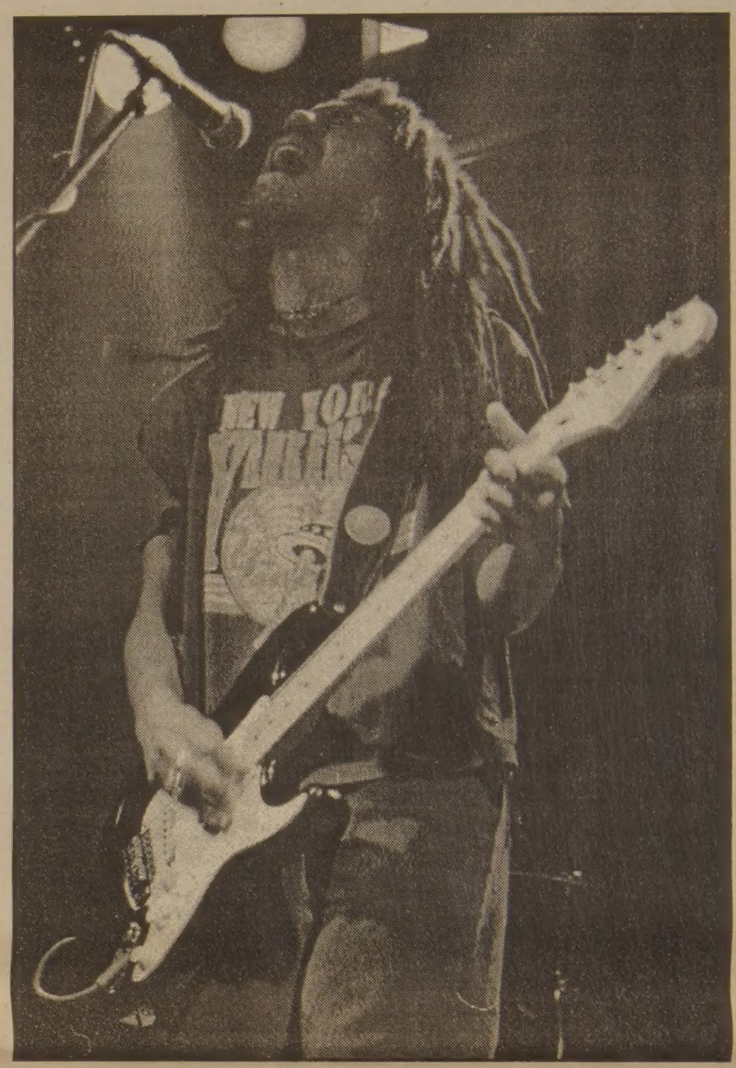
Staggered Crossing, a name that Taylor took from a book, is using technology, if not Napster, to its full advantage however. The band's Web site, www.staggered-crossing.com, is a menagerie of band info, tour dates and pictures.

In a more poetic moment, Taylor said that the focus or theme he sees in Staggered Crossing's work is that of "one beauty." He said, "There's only one element in the world, and from it comes eminent beauty." That element? "Love."

Band dynamics can make or break a band, and multi-piece bands have the added threat of drowning out their focus or style in a poorly orchestrated melting pot of sound.

However, with practice and persistence the comfort level needed is attainable, as has proved Staggered Crossing.

After completing two shows for Niagara College's students at After Hours and Alexander Davidson's, the college's pubs, the band is heading into its third cross-country tour with a series of dates promoting the new album.



Julian Taylor, the band's vocalist, belts out some tunes for an After Hours pub crowd at the Welland campus on March 15. The band played songs from its recent self-titled debut album, including its hit single *Further Again*.

Photo by Ryan McLaughlin

Childhood aspirations should never be forgotten

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer
Column

What do you do when the future smacks you in the face and tells you your dreams and ambitions will never be achieved? You stand there, take it and accept it.

This is about one woman's conquest, mine, for super-stardom, and my hopes of making my dreams come true. It is also a reality slap for those who have doubts about their dreams coming true.

I have learned to live with my dreams not coming true for two reasons. One is physical appearance. You have to look a certain way to be considered talented. The second is limited access to big name recording studios and agents who would want to sign me.

You may have guessed that my one dream was to sing and I mean, to fill stadiums, sell millions of albums and be filthy rich and famous, and have fun doing it. As outlandish as it sounds, it is a goal I have spent a lifetime trying to achieve, perfect and refine in hopes of it coming true, but I have learned to accept this fact: it never will.

No goal is unattainable if you are dedicated enough to try to reach it and will stop at nothing, but there are always obstacles. Overcoming them is the true test of dedication.

My one fear is singing in front of a crowd. I get really nervous when I perform. My palms sweat, my face goes red and I start to shake with fear. When I start singing, my voice waivers. I make stupid mistakes. They're stupid, perhaps, but they're a major obstacle to making it in such a demanding industry.

I have tried everything to beat this fear, but I have only lessened my fear with each performance. I can sing in front of my family, my friends and a small group of onlookers, but no more than 10 people.

Now I know what my future entails, and music isn't in it. I am studying journalism so my future will be as a reporter writing tons of stories and getting awards for my pieces.

It is fun to imagine what would have happened if my singing career were reality. I'd have four albums, four Junos, two MuchMusic Awards, two MTV Awards, two Teen Choice Awards, tons of platinum albums and millions of fans around the world. Now, there's a dream!

I fought my entire life to master my voice and perfect it just so that someday someone would hear me and I would have my shot. A lifetime of work, for a talent no one will hear? Useless is how I see that effort.

If it didn't sound any more pathetic, I want to be as famous as Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, Mariah Carey and all the other pop divas. When will I get my chance?

I have learned to accept my fate and that it won't include music, but in no way will it stop me. My mom taught me that we are given many talents in this lifetime but one special talent we are to share with the whole world. Mine was music. No matter where I end up in this world my music will always be mine, the one talent of significance to me.

I'm so lucky to have supportive parents and encouraging siblings who have always stood behind me in anything. It is through them that I will achieve my goals.

Until my name is heard all around the world and my millions of dollars are in the bank, I will continue to practice, refine my voice and pray that someday music dynamo Lou Pearlman will show up at my doorstep and offer my a contract to sing.

Know this: the basis of this story is a wake-up call to all who have "impossible" aspirations or dreams. Don't let them go, because dreams are all we have to cling to. Don't be afraid to reach for them, to achieve.

I speak from personal experience when I say doing nothing gets you nowhere. Dreaming is only that, until you put your dream to the test.

Daft Punk releases follow-up album

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

Da Funk of Daft Punk is back.

Daft Punk, one of the descendants of the "electronica" music genre, recently released **Discovery**, the follow up to its successful debut **Homework**.

Opening with the single *One More Time*, you wouldn't be able to decipher Daft Punk from any other dance music artist. As a fan of the band, if I hadn't known Daft Punk sang the song, I would have never guessed it was this band.

Tracks like *Aerodynamic*, *Voyager*, *Crescendolls* and *Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger* fortunately return with that distinct Daft Punk style and sound.

Unfortunately, the majority of Discovery is dance orientated.

Unfortunately, the majority of the album is dance orientated. A big fan of **Homework**, I was anticipating an album with lots of computerized music and fewer vocals. **Discovery** contains some good "electronica" music, but lyrics by guest vocalists make the music less noticeable in the background.

The low point of the album is a disco-style track called *Short Circuit*.

Daft Punk's **Discovery** and **Homework** can both be found on the EMD/Virgin record label at record stores everywhere.

Discovery isn't as good as **Homework**, but that doesn't mean it's a bad album. **One More Time** is getting plenty of play on the radio, and it has potential singles in *Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger*, and *Something About Us*, a slowed down love song which sounds like a mixture of Jamiroqaui and the French "electronica" band Air.

Unfortunately, there isn't a strong song like *Da Funk* or *Around the World*, found on **Homework**.

An interesting feature of **Discovery** is that it contains a free "Daft Club" card. The card features a 20-digit member number that allows you to download a new song off their Web site.

The album is a diverse listen, but if you were a new Daft Punk fan, I'd suggest you pick up **Homework**.

SPORTS

Akgol, Lahey, Lang retire from varsity

After a disappointing yet honourable performance at the nationals, the Niagara Knights say farewell to three athletes who played a huge role in an impressive 2000-01 volleyball season

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

The season is over for the Niagara Knights men's volleyball team, but only a few of our provincial champions will not return next fall.

Libero Cuneyt Akgol, 24, power/middle Bill Lang, 24, and power/setter Cory Lahey, 24, have come to the end of their varsity volleyball career. All three have contributed in different ways to the Knights' unbelievable success over the past few years.

Although Lahey has one more year of eligibility, he has chosen to finish on a high note and stick to beach volleyball.

Photo by Joël D. Herrington

Name: Bill Lang **Age:** 24
Height: 6'6" **Position:** Power/middle
Hometown: Ottawa **Varsity Exp.:** 4 yrs.

First of all, Akgol has been the team's most valuable defensive player for the past four seasons. He has played all four years of varsity eligibility at Niagara. Whenever a powerful serve came over the net, Akgol was there to receive it. Whenever a speeding smash headed toward the backcourt, Akgol was there for the dig. If a play was broken and the Knights were forced to give up a free ball, Akgol was there to perfectly place the ball into their opponents' weak spots.

For next season, assistant coach Kerby Bentley says Akgol's spot will be an important position to replace. Bentley and Akgol were teammates with Niagara from 1997 to 2000. If a fan were to look through the college's varsity yearbook and have difficulty finding Akgol within the mix, here's a clue. A libero/defensive specialist is the only player on any team who wears a different coloured shirt than the others. Every team has a libero, but the Knights certainly had the most talented.

Akgol helped lead the Knights to their second consecutive appearance in the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) bronze medal match. The 5'10" veteran led the team during the nationals with 34 digs.

Another key to Niagara's credible accomplishments was Lang, who hails from Ottawa, Ont. The 6'6" football, volleyball and high jump star has spent his last three years relishing his time at the college. He joined the team in 1998, after being continuously scouted by Bentley and head coach Blair Cudmore.

There has been a relative improvement in his court time and court sense, says Lang. "I guess I've grown up on the court," he says, adding the numerous years of physical activity has taken its toll on his body. "With age and abuse to my body, my abilities aren't as strong or as high as some of the younger guys on the rest of the team."

Nonetheless, there are other things on Lang's mind aside from varsity volleyball. Julia Robinson, Lang's girlfriend, will be graduating from Brock University in St. Catharines this spring. Lang says his decision on life after Niagara hasn't been made, since Robinson is applying for teacher's college this year. "As long as I'm not back in Ottawa, I'm good to go anywhere."

Last but definitely not least is first and final year Knight Lahey. The 6'4" veteran of varsity volleyball played but one season for Niagara, yet proved to be of substantial value to coaches Cudmore and Bentley. Lahey had knee surgery at the beginning of the year and managed to recover quite brilliantly. This was his "third year and best year," says Lahey, adding he was "really pleased" with his performance this season.

Each and every game of the 2000-01 season was a good one for Lahey. He played consistent, high-energy volleyball and lifted the Knights to another Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) title. "I had a great time this year," he says. "I will really miss it here."

Throughout the entire year, Lahey says the team was "closely knit" and its unity was the dominant factor in the success of the Knights. His next goal is to start his life after college and make a bid for the Canadian national volleyball team.

However, Lahey is scheduled to be married next August and says he'll begin his pursuit for the Olympic team a while after the special occasion. His alternative to playing volleyball would be to coach it, he says. "If I'm not playing, I'm going to coach. I'd love to start a program in London."

The Chatham, Ont., native spent two years at Oshawa's Durham College. Just as he did here at Niagara, Lahey helped the Lords win an OCAA title in 1995-96. At this year's CCAA tournament, Lahey finished with 18 kills, four blocks and 25 digs. The Knights were seeded third coming into the nationals, but were upset by British Columbia's Okanagan Lakers. "(The) expectations were so high," says Lahey about his team, "(but) I have no regrets."

Many critics believe the Knights should have won a medal at the CCAA tournament. Nevertheless, the guys worked very hard to get there and certainly weren't a disappointment by any stretch of the imagination.

'As long as I'm not back in Ottawa, I'm good to go anywhere.'

— Bill Lang

There were several things that worked against them. The college's Mackenzie building does not allow any glare of light to reflect onto the playing court. The gym at Okanagan had open blinds and the Knights were obviously affected by the setting of their matches, says Lahey. Just as a major league baseball player can lose a fly ball in a stadium's lights, a Niagara Knight can lose sight of a volleyball while competing in unfamiliar territory.

Aside from that, there were other aspects of the tournament that weren't exactly routine. They had no crowd support and concentrated too much on what the other team was going to do, instead of playing their own game, says Lahey.

These aspects are not excuses for coming up short in the bronze match; they're facts. In reality, the Knights are and definitely should be proud of their season, medal or no medal.

For a man of Lahey's size and stature, it is exceptional to have the type of touch he has with the ball. Lahey played the setter and power position for a Knights team that was overloaded with talented athletes. Luckily for us, Athletic Director Ray Sarkis, Cudmore and Bentley have been able to scout and recruit veteran all-stars like Lahey.

A huge factor in Niagara's overwhelming success is due to the off-season recruitment. "I think scouting is a big part of it," says Bill Lang. "Ray Sarkis does a lot of scouting for us and seems to have a good eye for talent."

Photo by Joël D. Herrington

Name: Cuneyt Akgol **Age:** 24
Height: 5'10" **Position:** Libero
Hometown: Kitchener **Varsity Exp.:** 4 yrs.

In order to top this season's prosperity, Bentley says the team would like to get another player like Graeme Gaunt in the lineup. It may be a difficult task to find another star like the 20-year-old rightside. Gaunt has led the team almost every game in offensive statistics. Only captain Josh Gunnell, 22, has been able to keep up with Gaunt's outbursts on offence.

The 6'5" player has received several awards during his stint at Niagara. Last year, he was named male athlete of the year. This year, he has won the OCAA player of the week, OCAA tournament most valuable player, OCAA first team all-star and CCAA first team all-star.

Gaunt's most recent accomplishment took place during the March 17 all-star game festivities at Georgian College in Barrie, Ont. In the vertical jump competition, he finished in second place with a 94 centimetre leap. If you make the conversion, Gaunt jumped about 38 inches off the floor. That's a better vertical than NBA superstar Shaquille O'Neal, who averages three feet on every jam. Gunnell also represented Niagara at the all-star game.

Lang says Gaunt is not only the best player in college volleyball, but also the best player among all colleges and universities in Ontario.

Niagara will surely miss Akgol, Lang and Lahey. There are many current and future Knights who will have the chance to replace them, yet volleyball fans will never forget these three sportsmen.

As Lahey says farewell to his home for a year, the volleyball veteran wishes nothing but good luck for the Knights' future. "I hope Niagara does well for years to come."

'I hope Niagara does well for years to come.'

— Cory Lahey

Next week, the Knights will be acknowledged by the media, friends and faculty for their magnificent season, at the 32nd annual sports Awards Banquet on Tuesday, March 27, at 6 p.m.

Photo by Joël D. Herrington

Name: Cory Lahey **Age:** 24
Height: 6'4" **Position:** Power/setter
Hometown: Chatham **Varsity Exp.:** 3 yrs.

SPORTS

Starting five for Niagara Knights, roommates

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

Here's the starting five for the Niagara Knights men's basketball team: Edson Jones, point guard, Haldon Hutchinson, shooting guard, Curtis Francis, small forward, Aaron Paisley, power forward and Ernell Ellis, centre.

The interesting part is this: they all live together.

Unanimously they believe they get along better on the court than at home. Francis says, "At home, it's a disaster. There is no such thing as (a) leader."

The most stylish slam dunker title goes to Paisely. Francis is the best showboater. He won the top showboater award at the all-star competition. Haldon wonders, "Do you even have to ask?"

Haldon is the most vocal. Paisley says, "No matter where you are, you can always hear Haldon."

Ellis, 22, of Brampton, takes General Arts and Sciences at the college. Ellis was the scoring average champ last year and finished this year in third position. Ellis has played three years with the Knights. He says he has two favourite moments playing for the Knights: "when we came back against Mohawk down by 25, and won, and playing against ECC (Erie Community College), I scored 44 points." If he doesn't get into professional basketball, he says, "I will find a job in the field I'm working towards at college."

If Ellis could be one person for just one day it would be Vince Carter, forward for the Toronto Raptors. "I would just like to play the NBA (National Basketball Association) for just one day and watch all that money pour out." Ellis says his favourite sports team is the Portland Trailblazers.

Hutchinson, 22, of Brampton, is in the Business Administration — Marketing (Co-op) program at the college, and he says if he doesn't get into pro basketball in Australia or Europe he'll get a job in marketing.

From left, Edson Jones, Aaron Paisley, Haldon Hutchinson, middle, Ernell Ellis, and Curtis Francis, pose at the centre of the Mackenzie Building's gym floor.

Photo by Aaron Wilson

Hutchinson has been captain of the Knights for three years and played with the Trinidad national team last summer. "It was a good learning experience." Hutchinson says his favourite team is the Los Angeles Lakers.

Francis, 21, of Brampton, is taking Business Administration — Marketing (Co-op) program. He says he'd like to continue his education after graduation perhaps in a post-graduate program someplace and get a job in marketing. Francis has played three years for Niagara. He says he has two memorable moments playing for Niagara: "Taking first place in the divison last year, and going to OCAA (Ontario Colleges Athletic Association) playoffs."

Francis's ultimate place in the world to go is Hawaii. "They make it seem like a nice place." Francis says his favourite basketball teams are the Toronto Raptors and Minnesota TimberWolves.

Paisley, 22, of Toronto, is in the Business Administration — Marketing (Co-op) program here. He'd like to get his diploma, finish his university degree and "maybe get a post-graduate degree and continue to play ball at the university level." This is his third year as a Knight. He says his most memorable moments playing for the Knights were "every game we won."

Paisley says that while living in Toronto he was an extra in sitcoms and movies. One of the movies he was an extra was the movie Billy Madison. "You can barely see me. I'm just the speck on the top of some hill."

He says if there is one person he would like to meet it would be "Dr. J, (Julius Erving). I think he would have a lot of knowledge to impart."

Paisley says he doesn't have a favourite basketball team. "I don't really like watching basketball."

Jones, of Brampton, is the rookie of the bunch. He is taking General Arts and Sciences at the college. Jones says for his future plans, "I will most likely come back to the college. I don't know, but in the future I would like to play pro basketball."

He says his favourite moment as a Knight was when they won their home tournament against Niagara Community College of Niagara Falls, N.Y.

He says basketball has always been his favourite sport, but "I like soccer and tennis because I'm good at them."

Jones says the one player he'd like to meet is basketball legend Michael Jordan. "He is one player I would like to see live."

Jones says his favourite basketball team is the Sacramento Kings.

Reporter, photographer invited to last IceDogs game

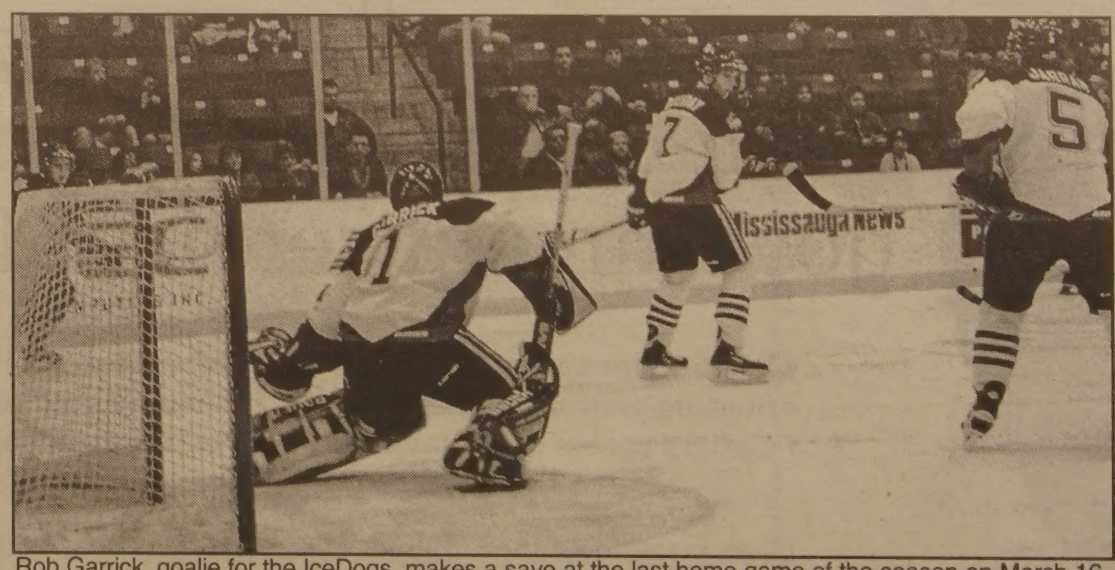
By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

What could be a better night for Canada's favourite pastime of hockey than a night with a typical Canadian winter snowstorm blowing outside?

A reporter and photographer from the *Niagara News* were special guests at the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) game between the Don Cherry-owned Mississauga IceDogs and North Bay Centennials on March 16.

Jamie Brown, Ice Dogs director of business development and community relations, provided the media passes.

An announced crowd of 3,115 was on hand as the IceDogs were looking to avenge their 7-0 loss to the Centennials last time they met.



Rob Garrick, goalie for the IceDogs, makes a save at the last home game of the season on March 16.

Photo by Scott Thomson

For the IceDogs, it was their last regular season home game this year and also the last time overage captain Omar Ennaffati will play in the Hershey Centre.

The IceDogs took another beating from the Centennials, losing 8-0.

Forwards Igor Valeev and Jeff Doyle each scored a pair for the Centennials, while forwards Ryan Armstrong, Ryan MacGregor, Kevin Hurley and defenceman Kevin Werner added singles.

Each roster hosted a handful of National Hockey League (NHL) draftees. Forward Ryan Courtney, a draft pick of Buffalo, was dressed for the IceDogs. Los Angeles draftee Brian McGrattan (centre) was scratched from the lineup.

The Centennials had two Florida draftees in the lineup, Alex Auld in goal and defenceman Chris Eade. North Bay's top scorer, Scott Cameron, a New Jersey Devils' draft pick, saw lots of ice time. Toronto draftee Peter Reynolds (defence) was scratched from the night's lineup.

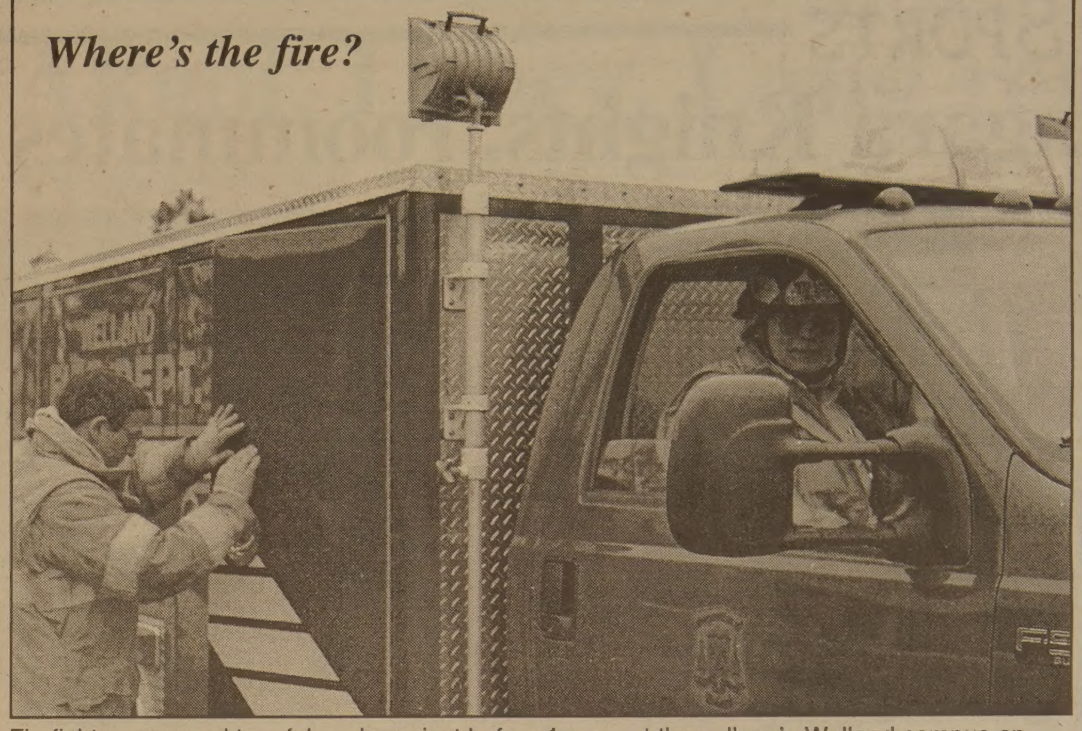
Besides having Cherry as an owner, the IceDogs have another connection to the NHL through its coach. Rick Vaive, a former captain and 50-goal scorer for the Toronto Maple Leafs, coaches the club.

The IceDogs play their last two games this weekend. Tonight they're in Ottawa to face the Ottawa 67's and on Sunday they meet the Centennials in North Bay.

The IceDogs have a future NHL prospect in 17-year-old Patrick Jarrett, the No. 1 pick in the OHL's 2000 draft. He's eligible for the NHL draft in 2002.

With only three wins this season, the IceDogs sit in the basement of the OHL. They are more than 30 points behind the second-last-place team. They will not play in the playoffs.

Where's the fire?



Firefighters respond to a false alarm, just before 1 p.m., at the college's Welland campus on Wednesday, March 21. Officials from the Welland Fire Department said the alarm originated from a change room in the Mackenzie building.

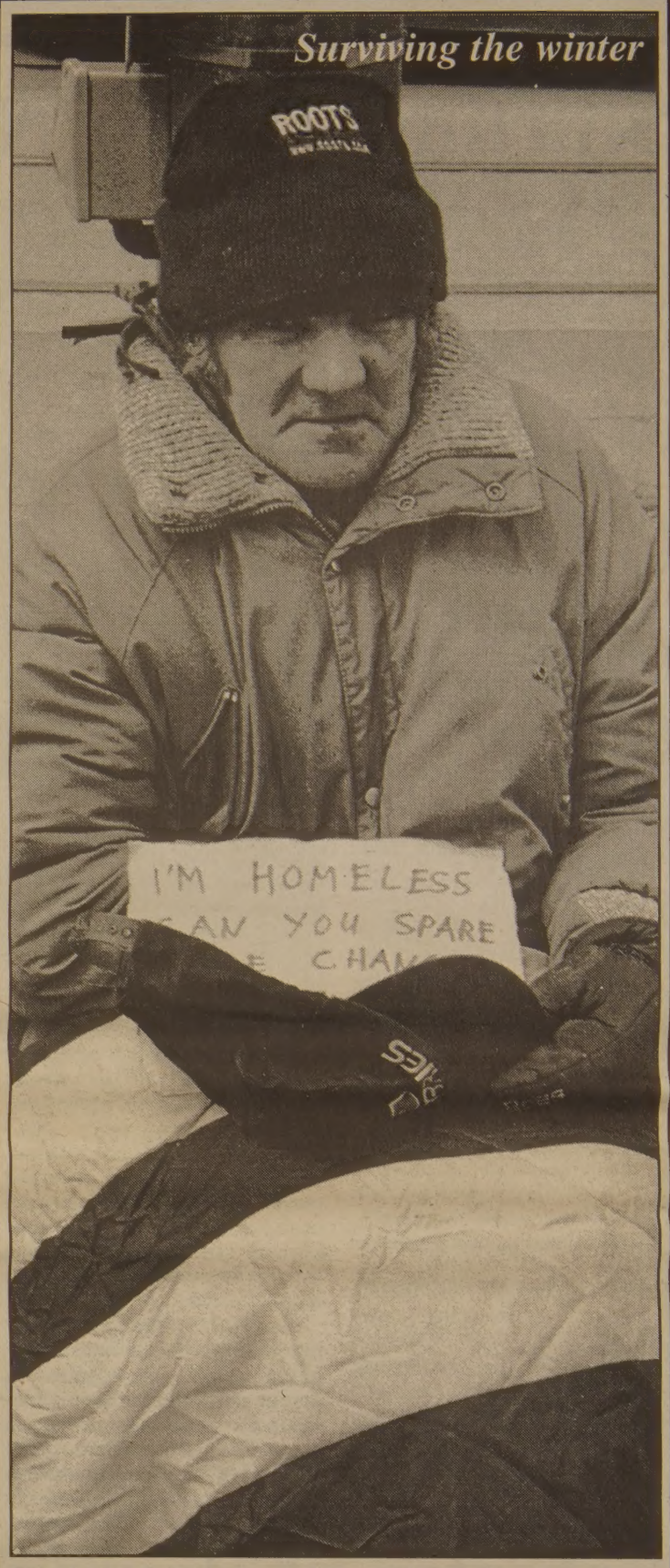
Photo by Collin Coulis

Getting ready for show

Busy repotting geraniums in their practical horticulture class at the Glendale campus greenhouse for this weekend's plant sale and open house are first-year Horticulture Technician (Co-op) program students (from clockwise) Jennifer Lewis, 20, of Sault St. Marie, David Neale, 20, of Niagara Falls, Errol Lucyk, 41, of Timmins, and Damien Jacobi, 19, of St. Catharines.

Photo by Paul Finelli

Surviving the winter



Bill, who has been homeless for some time, collects spare change in front of the Eaton Centre in Toronto.

Photo by Collin Coulis

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IN DEPTH

Reasons behind TSE stock meltdown

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

It was the best of times and the worst of times.

The Toronto Stock Exchange has had a dramatic year.

During the first half of 2000 the exchange rose dramatically. Riding the booming Canadian economy, the exchange soared as investors flocked to grab shares in the dynamic high-tech sector.

Companies like Nortel and JDS Uniphase regularly posted double-digit earnings growth and had market valuations that made them some of the most valuable companies in the world. By September 2000 Nortel stock represented a third of the TSE's value, its stock having grown from $32.50 to $124.50 Cdn within the year.

And then the bubble burst.

During a five-day period in October, Nortel's stock slid 17.5 per cent. The sell-off began when the Wall Street Journal reported phone companies' spending will slow. The phone companies buy what Nortel offers, and if they stop spending, Nortel stops growing. In one day the TSE dropped 900 points and had to stop trading in Nortel's stock because the TSE's computers couldn't handle the volume.

Analysts who at the beginning of 2000 were predicting the TSE to be worth more than 12,000 revised their estimates and believed the TSE could drop in value to 9,800.

Why corrections occur is a question to which no one has ever given an adequate answer.

It can be a host of things.

An article in the *Wall Street Journal* caused Nortel's slide in October. Anything that causes investors to become wary over the future of their investments can cause a sell-off, be it bad economic news, rising interest rates or even the wrong candidate leading in the election polls.

After the Democratic National Convention last August in the U.S., Vice-president Al Gore's showing in the election polls rose. This caused a massive sell-off in defence-related industries because Gore's Republican opponent, George W. Bush, was supporting increased defence spending, whereas Gore was not.

The problem with stock exchanges is that they are enslaved by the whims of their investors. When times are good, stocks soar; at the first sign of a downturn, they collapse. The stock exchange doesn't base value on what a company earns today, but what it will earn tomorrow. It's a gamble in which investors bet on the future health of a firm.

In the past decade so-called "new economy" stocks have soared. Investors and stock analysts alike believed the Internet and anything related to it would be the dominant form of commerce in the near future.

Until the second half of 2000, confidence in future profitability made many of these stocks extremely valuable, even though the majority of these companies had yet to post a profit.

With news of an economic slowdown in the U.S., investors began to question whether any of these firms would achieve profitability.

One compay named APBnews.com was recently offered for $950,000 US. That price is down from the $104-million valuation the crime-news site had just two months earlier. No one bought the company and it was carved up and sold in pieces.

The worse news for investors in the TSE and abroad is that it is going to get worse. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is revising its rules on how Internet companies can calculate their revenues. This revision will cause many companies to go bankrupt when it becomes law this July.

In addition, new economy leaders like Intel, Nortel and Cisco have all posted earnings warnings for the next year.

This will add another disincentive for investors, as the outlook for revenue growth is gloomy.

The volatility of the TSE is exacerbated by the changing look of the average investor. News of the huge gains in stocks has caused many middle and lower middle class people to invest heavily in stocks. These are people who can't afford to lose their money and, as a result, they are less likely to stay with a stock if a sell-off begins.

If a recession occurs in the next year, the downturn in the TSE could become a meltdown as consumer confidence plummets.

In 1929 the October crash preceded the Great Depression. At that time investors believed the market would rise forever. People were borrowing money to invest in stocks. Some had only five cents for every dollar of stock they owned.

Although the markets are regulated far more strictly today than in 1929, the hype and mania of the exchanges in Canada and the U.S. during the past decade are reminiscent of the '20s.

Investors, it would seem, never learn from past mistakes.

The markets rose to highs that could not be supported by the earnings of the companies. Once it became apparent to investors that continued growth was no longer a certainty, the downturn began.

Want to predict how the market will react in the future? Listen to Sir Isaac Newton: "What goes up, must come down."

Exploring murderous rages of men, women, in society

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer
Column

As disturbing as it is, violent behaviour and murder have become huge parts of our society. The worst of it is that many murders happen at home.

It's chilling to hear about a young child missing. When a body is found, it's heart wrenching to discover the parent was responsible. A reminder of such a tragedy is Susan Smith.

She told police in the U.S. state of South Carolina, where she lived, that her car had been hijacked with her two young boys in the back seat. Later, we find out, she let her car roll into a lake with her sons belted securely into their child car seats. How could a mother do such a horrific thing to her own children? Worse, she had welcomed how the world felt sorry for her and prayed for her, all the while knowing what she had done.

A more recent case is that of Farah Khan. The five-year-old was murdered by her father and stepmother. They dismembered her body and buried it in separate bags in Toronto.

Most cases of murder within families are usually spousal murders. Canadian Apna Patel, 28, stabbed her husband, Viresh Patel, 26, a doctor, in the throat. She had gone to see him at his U.S. practice in an effort to save her marriage. She was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to prison for three years by an American jury.

Robert Bierenbaum, 45, was convicted of second-degree murder. He was accused of strangling his wife 15-years-ago and dumping her body from an airplane into the Atlantic Ocean. He faces a term of 25 years to life in prison.

Colin Thatcher was convicted of shooting his ex-wife, JoAnn Wilson, in the head in 1983. He was charged with first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole for 25 years.

Perhaps they felt the system failed at convicting them as it did at protecting the ones they killed.

Patrick Kelly was charged with first-degree murder of his wife, Jeanette. He was accused of throwing her off their 17th floor condominium in Toronto. He was sentenced to life with no parole for 25 years, although he was convicted on the testimony of a woman who has since recanted.

As you can see, in most cases, the women are the victims.

These weren't people with low incomes who had more problems than anyone else. These were people with good professional jobs. Mrs. Patel was a dentist, Bierenbaum was a doctor, Thatcher was a former Saskatchewan cabinet minister and Kelly was a Mountie.

What drives someone to take another's life?

All of these people swear their innocence, but in each case their actions after the murder are what makes them guilty. Patel said her husband attacked her, but there wasn't a mark on her. In the case of Bierenbaum, the body was never found, but it was proven that he had taken a two-hour plane ride the day his wife went missing when he had said he was home all day. He also waited 30 hours before reporting her missing. Thatcher actually said he couldn't treat the death of his ex-wife as the loss of a loved one, even after having three children with her. Within days after Kelly's wife died, Kelly flew to Hawaii with another woman after forging his wife's name to cash in the insurance policy.

There is no evidence that any of these murderers were ever abused as children, so what made them think they could get away with the crime?

How did the system fail? Maybe too many people were minding their own business when they should have been paying attention to what was going on around them. It is sad that when a murder takes place, the first people the police turn to as suspects are the family members. If people can't stop violence within their homes, how are we supposed to stop it in our society?

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LIFELONG LEARNING

Student's perspective on visiting Scotland

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

In Scotland, the sky is almost as blue as the water.

Scotland is the land of my ancestors, and I have made several trips there on vacation.

The most recent, and most memorable, was in 1998. I traveled there with my mother and sister. Our plan was to tour the country by car.

We left a hot and sticky Toronto on the evening of July 10. It was a seven-hour flight, which was thankfully smooth and uneventful. When we first approached Scotland by air, the most striking thing was the shadows of clouds passing over the land. Patches of green and yellow farmland would turn dark, as swiftly moving clouds would pass overhead.

We arrived in Glasgow to find Scotland enduring something akin to a mini Ice Age. It was July, and as we waited to be bused to our rental car, we were pelted by sleet powered by a freezing wind.

We got into our car, a sporty little Fiat, and headed for my grandparents' in Port Glasgow.

Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland, and Port Glasgow are located on the Clyde River. The Clyde is a sort of line that separates the north of Scotland and the highlands, from the rolling hills and farmland of the south. While driving along the river, you can actually see the highlands erupting to the north of the river.

Our trip to Scotland, which was just the first week of a five-week trip to Europe, had a dual purpose. The first was to satiate my mother's incurable addiction to the country; the second was to bury my father.

We did the latter before we undertook the former.

My Dad had passed away eight months earlier from cancer. This was supposed to be the last trip he would go on with his family. He did not make it, but my mother was determined to go on with the trip anyway. It was decided to bring some of his ashes with us and bury them in the backyard of a church overlooking the Clyde in Port Glasgow.

So jet-lagged and cold, we headed to the small church with my grandparents. The minister performed a small service and my grandfather placed my Dad's remains in the ground.

I went home and slept.

We decided to spend a couple of days in Port Glasgow with my grandparents. It is an interesting town. It was founded as an upstream port of Glasgow during the 1700s. Ships too big to reach Glasgow farther inland would dock here instead. It was home to a massive shipbuilding industry during Britain's reign as the workshop of the world. Little of this remains today.

What is left, however, is utterly picturesque.

The Clyde River creates a valley along its course. Before the river widens and reaches the Irish Sea, the valley can be quite steep. Port Glasgow is built half on the banks of the Clyde and half stretching up and over the side of this valley.

The city centre, all made of stone, is centred around the historic port on the banks of the river. Like many cities in Britain, Port Glasgow seems locked in a time warp architecturally. It looks like the era it was built in, with little in the way of modern buildings or suburbs.

We decided to head north on the Monday after arriving.

It was a cloudy day, not unusual for Scotland, and the traffic was light. We were going to cut a line through the middle of the country, heading initially for Loch Ness. As we crossed into the highlands north of the Clyde, the rugged beauty of the country became increasingly apparent. The whole effect created a feeling of acute isolation, and I honestly expected to see the monster's head inch out of the deep, dark water in front of me.

We spent the early part of the day travelling next to numerous lakes or lochs, as they are known in Scotland. The water of these lochs was a dark gray-blue, and they would churn as small boats slid through them.

To get to Loch Ness we passed through a couple of interesting places. The first was a stretch of bogs and moors called Rannoch Moor that was reputed to be a haven for witchcraft during the Middle Ages. These moorlands stretched out in every direction for a few kilometers as we approached the highlands proper. The water of these moors was purple and florescent green in places, as chemicals from deep underground bubble up to the surface. An eerie calm permeated the entire moor, as did the knowledge that any step off the road we were on could result in sudden death. It was impossible to tell the difference between bog and solid ground. If you stepped into a bog you could be sucked underground and never heard from again.

Continued on page 27

Sean Tweedley, star of "The Warm Up Show," aired on the Comedy Network, watches a student attempt a front flip. The student's acrobatics won him a ticket to Cheap Date 2001, tonight's event at After Hours pub.

Photo by Bill Stephenson

Director of Continuing Education uses surveys to plan courses

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer

"Working with students fills me up," says Trish Labonté.

Labonté is the director of Continuing Education and director of Learning Resources at Niagara College.

As director of continuing education, Labonté says her job has "lots of variety," and the focus is on members of the community getting a college education on a part-time basis. She says the courses are fun because you can "learn all sorts of things."

"We discover through surveys what people want to learn," and that form of research is one way to determine which part-time courses to offer. She has a team of development officers planning courses, and "I support (them) any way I can."

Labonté's role in the library mirrors what she did before. She says she is still involved with administration and setting long-term directions, including deciding how best the budget can be managed to "provide more."

Among the expanding services are more online publications, electronic reserves on books and E-books. "I have a good team (in the library); they're all on the same page and very committed."

The job as director of continuing education opened when the previous director retired. She says she has always had an interest in continuing education, so when the opportunity came she applied.

"I've been a big fan of continuing education forever." She commented that she has had a "major" year of learning.

Labonté says she feels that there is a connection between continuing education and learning resources. "Both have opportunities to supplement what goes on beyond the walls of a classroom."

Asked how she balances the two jobs, Labonté says they both "mesh into one."

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EXPERIENCING SCOTLAND

Travelling across beautiful, magical land

Continued from page 26

The second place we visited was Glencoe. This is the site of a historic Scottish massacre in the 1700s. It is now one of Britain's premier skiing and hiking destinations.

Glencoe is a tiny village set in a valley girdled by the mountains of the middle highlands. Hikers are everywhere, as are skiers in the winter. The small mountains that create this valley are cut by rivers and waterfalls, making them overwhelming for their size and their beauty.

It was late in the afternoon when we left Glencoe. By the time we reached Loch Ness it was early evening.

Loch Ness is the most famous place in Scotland. The small villages that surround it thrive on the tourist trade generated by the monster myth. It is easy to see why the myth has endured though. The valley that Loch Ness sits in is huge. Loch Ness is, in fact, just one of a series of lochs that slice Scotland's north in two. When we arrived at Drumnadrochit, the Mecca of Loch Ness tourism, it was early evening. A fog was settling in over the loch, and sky was a dull gray. Urquart Castle, which overlooks the loch, stood desolate and deserted.

We spent a few hours passing through the tourist traps and getting something to eat before we found a bed and breakfast and went to sleep.

Loch Ness in the morning is vastly different from Loch Ness in the evening. The sun reflects off the water of the loch making the loch shimmer. The sides of the mountains that surround the valley are patched with evergreens planted as part of a reforestation plan. The sky is bright blue and there are boats passing through the deep waters of the loch. In the morning, Loch Ness could be any of the other lochs in the region.

From Loch Ness, we headed straight north to the Isle of Skye. Skye is where my mother's side of the family is from. We were heading to Dunvegan at the very tip of Skye, practically the northernmost point of Scotland.

Dunvegan, the village, is named after Dunvegan, the castle, which is where the MacLeod clan was based. It took eight hours to get from Loch Ness to Dunvegan Castle. During that time, we stopped at Portree, the largest town on Skye. Portree is a bustling fishing port and tourist centre. It is the only town of significant size on Skye and is surrounded by rolling hills and farmland.

Dunvegan, by comparison, is barely a village. Without the castle and its tourist money, it is doubtful the village would have the means to exist at all.

Castle Dunvegan is probably the best-preserved castle I visited in Scotland. Surrounded by lush gardens and woodland, it sits on a small cliff overlooking Loch Dunvegan, which stretches out to the sea.

The castle is not a ruin. It is perfectly preserved from the interior furnishings to the dungeon in the basement. One of the highlights of our visit to Dunvegan was going out on the water of Loch Dunvegan to look at a colony of seals. There are numerous islands in Loch Dunvegan, and because Skye is so far north there is a significant seal population. It was a bitterly cold day, and the water spray from the boat we were on was like ice on my skin. The seals, however, seemed to find the climate to their liking and basked on the rocks in the mid-afternoon sun.

We spent the night in Dunvegan and then set out on a marathon journey back south to Edinburgh. At this point, we had to hurry because in two days our train to England would be leaving.

Without stopping for a single break, we shot back south through Scotland, this time ending up on the east coast in Kirkcaldy.

Kirkcaldy is where my Mom is from. We had been there many times before and weren't planning on spending much time there, just the night.

Kirkcaldy is a medium-sized city, once famous for its linoleum factories. My mother's family left there in 1952 when she was three. In many ways, it is a very North American city. It has a mall, McDonald's and significant suburbs. There is not much in the way of historical sites, but it is located halfway between St. Andrews, the home of golf, and Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland.

We went to Edinburgh and dropped off our car the next day. We decided to spend our last day there, and then board the train for England.

Edinburgh is gorgeous. The city was completely remodeled in the 1700s during which it was considered the most beautiful city in Europe. The Queen's official residence is located here as are the Scottish crown jewels. At the city's centre is Edinburgh Castle. It sits on a hill and overlooks the surrounding countryside. The mile leading up to the castle is called the Royal Mile and is the most medieval part of the city. It has changed little in the last 500 years, and in July when we were there, it was packed with tourists.

The Royal Mile leads down to Holyrood Palace, which is the Queen's residence in Scotland. We visited the palace and the gardens surrounding it. The palace is massive. Inside are gigantic rooms with 20-foot ceilings and huge mirrored hallways. There are oil paintings and tapestries covering all the walls. The bedrooms are lavish, with huge canopied beds and large windows overlooking the city. Only the bottom two floors are available for public viewing because the royal family still occupies the top floor.

In addition to its historic interest, Edinburgh is famous for its cultural events.

There are many theatres and cinemas. Pubs line many streets and street performers are everywhere. At the end of the summer each year the city is host to one of the *world's biggest cultural events* The Edinburgh Festival. During this time all the concert halls and cinemas are packed and every night, a military display is put on at the castle for the public.

Needless to say, my family and I did not get to see everything in Edinburgh in the few hours we were there.

We left later that same day for England and the rest of Europe by train. Scotland is rugged and diverse, cultured and sophisticated, medieval and modern.

To me though, Scotland will always seem like a second home.

Dunvegan castle on the Isle of Skye in northern Scotland is home of the clan MacLeod.

Photo by Calum McNeil

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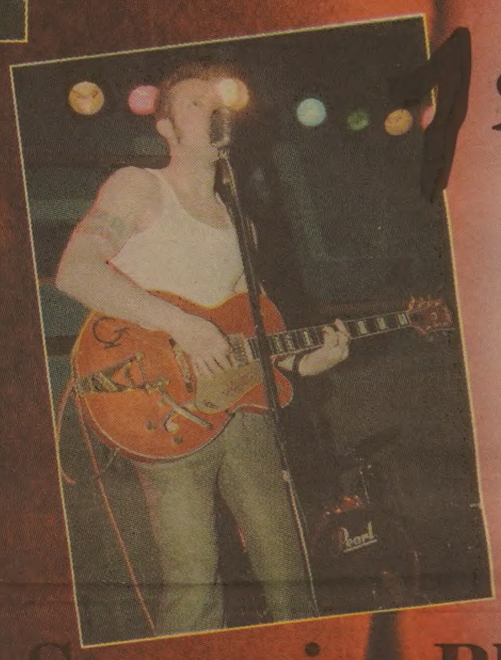
Created by: Catherine Leblanc & Erika Steibelt, Queen's University

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Solution



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Screaming Black Cadillacs

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2nd

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3rd

Sick Twisted Farmers

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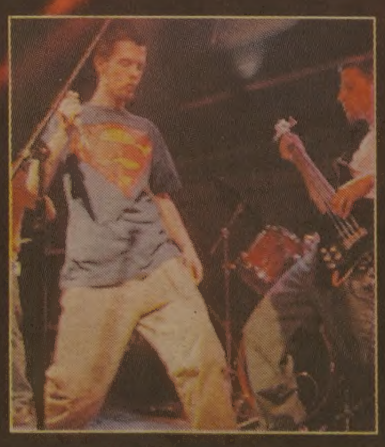

Vapour Eight

Subspecies